Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

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Summary: What if Robin/Avatar had woken up somewhere he never belonged? What if he had woken up in a future (Lucina's) that was lost and couldn't be saved? Can he conquer destiny once again, or will he heroically fall? One thing is certain; this is unlike anything he experienced before...

Chapter 1: Prologue-Premonition

Prologue: Premonition

"This is it! Our *final* battle," he told her determined.

"You seem anxious. I've never seen you like this," She responded to him surprised. It was true. They had been through a lot together, and in that time he never expressed any sign of nervousness. He was always calm, smooth, collective, and ready for battle. This time he looked different, as if something was troubling him.

"It's because everything has led up to this moment. Everything we've done, all our hard work, and our struggles. They are what got us right here, right now," Robin said with a serious tone. "I can't afford any more losses. Much like I can't stand losing you."

She smiled. "We've faced so many things together, so I think you should know by now that I can watch my back. Right?"

"Yes, I know. It's just that, I would never forgive myself if something happened to you tonight." He looked straight in her beautiful eyes. In those two pools he saw his own reflection, and the best out of himself.

"Neither would I, if anything happened to you. Do you remember the plan?" She asked him seriously.

"Of course. I created it after all."

"Right, and this is like *the Valley*. Risen had us surrounded, we were outnumbered and alone." She pointed to what she could see in front of them. It was getting dark, and there was no sun to light the way while Risen covered the land that expanded before them. They couldn't even see the grass beneath the zombie horde, only the dark gray sky and the burned trees were visible.

"No, *the Valley* differs from now."

"How's that? I see no difference," she asked him curious.

"Ehmm… because of this." He pressed towards her, and she couldn't help but feel the adrenaline of her heart when he put his lips on hers. She felt so protected and joyful, because she had someone right by her side. Someone she knew that had stolen her heart and would do anything for her to smile. Her blood flowed rapidly in her cheeks, making them as red as ever. He put his hands around her waist and she put hers around his neck, pulling him closer.

"We should focus on our mission, we're about to start the battle. Did you forget that?" She told him in a slightly bossy tone while pushing him away, but she was unable to hide her excitement and her rosy cheeks.

"I did." He replied with a broad smile, like she hadn't yelled at him. "Although, when this is over, I have prepared a small surprise for you."

She nodded and asked, "Really? Then, shall we go ahead so I can see it later?"

"Yes. Tell the others to guide our forces towards the enemy. We must focus on entering the castle. It's your job to tell us how to get in, and with our new weaponry, we have a chance of winning."

"I know. Tonight, we will write a new future for Ylisse."

"Together." He told her confidently and held her hand.

And so the battle began. The zombie fighters rushed at them with a vicious aura. They couldn't listen or feel. They could only see their enemy in front of their eyes. That was their mission, to kill with no remorse of their actions. That was why the fell dragon was so powerful. Although he had great power himself, his army was the one that terrorised the countless cities it found in its path. Did that mean they were better than humans? Of course not. Although their enhanced battle abilities and skills were something to notice, they lacked human's skills like improvising, insight and the two most important ones, compassion and supportiveness for each other. Those skills, unheard to Risen, made the remains of humanity gather and forge a team with one goal in mind, the fall of the fell dragon, once and for all.

In this battle, that dream was about to become real after all those years of pain and slaughter. It was the time for the sun to rise, and for the long period of peace to begin. The man, followed by his beloved one, found a path that guided them and their selected forces inside Ylisstol's castle. The building was the key for them to open the door to a bright new

world. At least, that was what they thought as he looked around the room. They had just gotten in, but he told them to stay alert for anything.

"What is it? You looked troubled," she asked him worried.

"I don't know. This is way too easy. It was never *that* easy," Robin responded concerned.

Right then, they heard a huge noise from outside. The man quickly turned around to see what was going on. Unfortunately, in that moment their forces were surrounded by Risen. He couldn't understand what was going on, but before he could even think, he was knocked out from behind. The last thing he remembered before closing his eyes was his beloved one and the feeling of extreme disappointment. He had failed her, something he swore never to do.

He awoke disoriented and confused when he slowly opened his eyes. He tried looking around to get his bearings and unconsciously moved his hand only to find that it was tied tight to a metallic chair. With a quick look around the room, he saw nothing but a dim light from a candle nearby. At once, he tried to think of ways to get out of this condition. Alas, the metallic chair was bolted to the ground so he couldn't break it. His hands and legs were also tied with a plastic-like cord making it impossible to move. Not to mention that he seemed very weak. Unable to find an idea to escape, he waited there looking towards the candle's light, and smelling its wax scent. All he could do now was worry about his friends and his love, about their failure, and about the person who betrayed them.

Suddenly, he heard noises of footsteps. Then, the sound of a door cringing open. Before he knew it, a man appeared before him, holding another candle and a knife.

"Thank goodness! Hurry! Cut the ropes and let's save our men! Hope isn't lost yet!"

The man in front of him laughed sarcastically. "Your plan failed tactician. We've been holding you here for a while now. The battle was lost before it started, and there is nothing you can do anymore."

"What?… We? It was YOU! You hit me from behind! You… Traitor! How could you? We trusted you! I trusted you!" He tried to move in a fury but he couldn't.

"I am definitely going to enjoy this. You are alive because I ordered them not to kill you. You know, for old times' sake, but I came here with a deal. You will tell us where you are keeping it. You kept that secret for yourself and-"

"Don't speak her name!" He cried furiously as his face reddened in anger. Robin moved his body with rage to escape, only to be stopped a third time by his ties.

"Haha! I won't. I was so close, but so far away. You lied about its place. It wasn't where I thought it was. Tell me where the real one is and I will grant you a place right next to lord Grima."

"I prefer to die before I help you! Snake!" He spat at his face using the only way to attack he could think of. However, the man wiped it away from his eye and continued like nothing had happened.

"Don't worry I am not in hurry. I have all the time I need. I finally defeated you! Could I ask for more?"

"Arrrgggghhh!" It was a female scream. One he recognised immediately.

"NO! What are you doing to her? You crazy psychopath! Tell me, damn it!"

"You will tell me where you hid it! Or she will die. I will slaughter her in front of you, but if you comply then I will let you keep her head! Haha!" The man laughed evilly. "Now, *tell* me where you hid it!"

Robin was lost in thought. He had no other choice but to comply.

"Tell me Sir Robin. How did everything begin? Tell me everything you know or she will suffer."

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Prologue-Premonition

A/N (Author's Note): Hello everybody :) This story was based on my idea of how awful was Lucina's future. She was talking about true grief and pain and I wanted to explore that world with the best way I could do. But that future couldn't be saved. Can Robin intervention change that? Be assured that this isn't a happy and predictable story :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended.

Until next time! Please have yourselves a good one :D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 2: Chapter 1: Rebirth

Rebirth

"Tell me Sir Robin. How did everything begin? Tell me everything you know or she will suffer."

"Aaaarrrghhh!" Robin heard her screaming again. The painful cry hurt his soul to the core as he lowered his head in agony.

"Stop! I will comply… I will comply… I want to see that she's alive. That's the only thing I ask for," Robin pleaded him. However, the man stood in front of him unmoved. He then raised his hand and slapped Robin across his left cheek. It left a sharp sting and a burning red mark which Robin tried not cry out from. He would not give his tormentor the satisfaction of seeing him in pain.

"Why are you doing this? Why don't you just kill me?" He yelled in dismay.

In turn, his opponent laughed evilly, "I am not a torturer of your body, but of your soul. You will tell me what I want otherwise she dies. And when you finish, I will let you die, peacefully. But until then you're mine. So I'll give you one last chance to tell me or else she will suffer even more."

Robin looked around his surroundings one last time. He saw the dark foreboding room with nothing but a candle to dimly illuminate the face of his tormentor, and felt the tight binds across his wrists cut into his skin.

"Okay but you already know some," he said weakly.

"I am all ears," he told Robin.

Robin sighed in dismay and said, "Okay… Here it goes..."

"Lucina! We've arrived too late. The village is destroyed, and it's burned to ashes." He said in horror as he looked in front of him. He saw hundreds of corpses spread around him with some of them badly disfigured. Houses were on fire, and he could feel the violent heat rush across his face. Even worse, the sky was getting darker from the smoke and death that surrounded them.

"No… It's entirely my fault. These people were innocent. Why? Gods, why?" she asked him, not able to understand what she saw.

"Don't blame yourself. We did everything we could. Sometimes it's just not written."

"Maybe. Maybe it isn't." She said in doubt before focusing on her duties. "Order the others to head back to our base. Gerome, what are we going to do with the bodies? They deserve an honest burial," she responded, sorrowfully.

"Of course. They deserve it. They've been through a lot." He said soberly as they continued their actions. Time was always short, but they spared some to execute a small ritual to respect their last deeds. Eventually, Gerome ordered Minerva to breathe fire at the bodies as way of cremation. After a while, they had brought the last man they could find, and this time it was a man wearing an odd robe. His face was filled with scars and his clothing was covered in blood, but Minerva refused to do anything once the wyvern recognized the face of a long and distant ally.

"Minerva! What's wrong?" He asked and headed towards his dragon as she reeled back, unwilling to harm him. Gerome tried spreading his arms and moved his head closer to her ears. He felt her scars and her rough dragon skin, but he quickly moved back and shook his head in surprise when she responded to him.

"No way!" He cried in shock. "Lucina! This man is still alive!"

"Finally! Good news at last! Quick! Bring me the elixir!" She ordered him with some small hope returning. The masked man then rushed and opened a bag, which was tightly bound at his dragon's saddle. He reached his hand inside and picked a bright blue bottle, and without delay he opened it and gave it to his leader. She then fell on her knees and with her right arm she raised the man's head. With the other, she filled his mouth with the potion.

"Now, we wait for it to do its job." Lucina told him hoping they would not lose another to this war. Every life was precious to her. "Inform the others and tell them to bring a Pegasus and fast! I'll stay here to make sure he survives. Leave me your first aid bag, just in case."

"I won't leave you here! It's too dangerous. You're far more important than a mere villager," he responded, obviously mad at her words. She was their last hope, and she recklessly put herself in danger to help others.

"This is an order Gerome. Risen never return to their crime scene. We both know that. Now go!" She yelled.

"This is a bad idea! Darn it!" He told in his frustration. With a quick move he untied the bag from his dragon and threw it at her. He then got on his dragon and gently gave a signal for her to fly.

"I hope they come back fast Gerome." She said with her arm holding the man up while she took the man's hood off. He saw his face covered in blood, and she hurriedly took the washcloth from the bag. She wiped his face with care, and while she was cleaning his wounds, she poured vulnerary at his scars. She untied the knot that was holding his robe and carefully took it off from him to reveal his shirt. She took his shirt off too revealing, this time, his large wound.

"He's seriously injured. Damn it. He won't make it." She worried while trying to find a way to save him. "If only I had something to make it stop bleeding…" She used her vulnerary again to clear the wound and protect it from a possible deadly infection. Then, she rapidly looked around as she desperately searched for something to help. Discovering a branch nearby, she picked it up and used one of the houses to set it on fire. Next, she took her cape off and wrapped the branch's burning edge with it. With slow movements, she cauterized the wound while being careful not to burn too much of his untouched skin. Praying that it worked, she poured the remaining elixir in his mouth and waited.

"That was the best I could do. Sorry, I am not like my mother," she said, while holding the man tight. Much to her surprise the man started to move his head slowly. With the same pace, he opened his eyes and saw her beautiful face. He tried to move, but it caused him nothing more than pain.

"Are you an angel?" He said with the last of his strength. His words caused her to tilt her eyebrows in confusion.

"What?" She replied. "No, you are mistaken. You are still here with us."

"What? Am I not dead?" He asked surprised, "I apologize then. I must admit you pretty much look like one."

"You are talking like you've already seen one."

"I do *now*." He responded serenely.

"Huh…" She murmured confused. "So that must explain why…" She said in a sarcastic tone.

"That must explain what?"

"That explains *why* they tried to kill you. Because of your ridiculous humour," Lucina while fighting back tears as she realized that the man would live. She was able to save someone, and it was a welcome relief from burying the dead.

He didn't speak, and he only moved his eyes around to get a glimpse of his surroundings. He saw the first aid-kit, the potions, the hot branch and the fire. He understood what was going on. "I apologise for my manners. Do you know what happened here, because I have absolutely no idea?"

"You don't know? But you were here…"

"I am sorry, but I have no memories of what happened," he replied.

"Can you at least remember your name?"

"Unfortunately, no. No, I can't." he shrugged

Whoooosshh... The sound of a pegasus' wings flapping against the air came from behind them. Lucina recognised the sound immediately and said, "Finally, there are here. Come on! Let's get you back on your feet?"

"Where are we going?" The man asked.

"To take care of you."

"... How can I trust you?" He questioned in a serious way.

"You're right. You can't! But I have no problem leaving you here in the middle of nowhere, alone and injured. It was nice healing your wounds, scars and stopping your bleeding. I hope we meet again sometime!"

"And you told me that I had a creepy sense of humour." He muttered lowly. "Gah… My whole body is in pain, but I'll see

what I can so. Let's get going," He told her as she helped him get up.

Meanwhile, a young lady approached them and Lucina shouted to her, "Cynthia! Come here! This man needs help!"

"Right! Hold on, I'm coming!" The young lady said and rushed to them. She held the man from his right side, while Lucina from his left. Step by step, they reached the white Pegasus. The man was quickly getting back on his feet. It looked like Lucina's treatment had worked. With a little more help, the man got on the Pegasus. The two girls followed.

"Now, hold on really tight! We're about to take off," Cynthia told him.

"Where are we going again?" he asked, bewildered.

"As I said to take care of you. Let's go Cynthia!" Lucina urged.

"Right! Here we go! Come on Sumia!" She said and gently spurred the Pegasus, urging it onward. The animal, much like Minerva did, obeyed its master and spread its white wings while it started running forward. The man lowered his body so he wouldn't suddenly fall off. Then the Pegasus, once it had reached the necessary speed, jumped. With the help of its wings it moved higher and higher.

"Thank you... Lucina!" The man told her in a reluctant tone.

"Wait! How do you know my name? You said you had your memories wiped out!" She asked him curious, but also a little furious for potentially lying to her.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 1: Rebirth

A/N (Author's Note): So, after hearing your opinions I've decided to name the avatar Robin, and I've also added his name to the previous chapter.

No copyright intended. Thank you for your support so far :)

Until next time, please have yourselves a damn good one ;D

J. D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 3: Chapter 1: Rebirth (II)

Rebirth (II)

"Wait! How do you know my name? You said you had your memories wiped out!" She asked him curiously, but also slightly furious for potentially lying to her.

"Ehm… Would you believe me if I told you that I don't know how? It just struck my mind," he said, wondering the same thing.

"I see, do you remember anything at all from your past?"

"Unfortunately no… I'm sorry," He responded and suddenly felt a sharp pain. It was hard to describe because it made it difficult to hear, and it felt like his ears were about to burst.

"Hey! You don't need to apologize! We'll help you! Once we reach our destination we will get this all sorted out!" Cynthia added cheerfully.

Robin took some comfort in those words, but the pain he was feeling grew worse and he groaned out to say, "Gah… now my ears are hurting me… What's going on?"

"It's nothing! We went very high in the air in a short amount of time, which means your ears are adjusting to the change in air pressure. But don't worry, you'll get used to it like us," Cynthia reassured him.

"Where in the world are we going anyways?" He sighed still somewhat disoriented. Cynthia giggled, but Lucina remained silent and calm.

After a while, the Pegasus started to lower its altitude, and Robin realized that they were approaching the ground. This scared him a bit, as he couldn't remember the last time he flew in the air, if ever, and the thought of crashing was something that seriously concerned him. In reality a minute had passed, but for him the landing felt like a century. While they were descending, he unconsciously grabbed Cynthia from her waist and instinctively tried to find some comfort.

"Argh…" Cynthia eyes widened as it felt like her stomach was being crushed. "Stranger… You're squeezing me too tight. I think my armor will break if this keeps up" She told him while struggling to breathe. Immediately, he realized they had reached the ground, and for no particular reason, he was embarrassing himself.

"Sorry… again… It's not that I feared we would crash or something… Definitely not that!" He tried to defend himself, but even he realized how silly he seemed. "Yikes… How many times will I apologize today?"

"I hope this will be the last one. Come, it's about time we reach our destination," Lucina told him stoically. She then got down off the animal and helped him off the saddle as well. Back on solid ground, Robin examined his surroundings with a quick glimpse and found that they landed in the middle of a forest. Trees with huge trunks besieged them in every direction with thick firs. He also figured that they should be in, or probably close to, a mountain or somewhere with high altitude.

Although, he found it hard to breathe as there was not enough oxygen for his lungs, and his blood was pumping faster to accommodate for the lack of air. This made his wounds act up again, while the bracing cold did not help either. He moved his arms close to his belly in order to retain his body temperature and quickly tried to calm himself down hoping the pain would subside.

"I'll guide Sumia to the shed and prepare her dinner. You two go in the house. I'll catch up with you later," Cynthia said with a smile. She held her animal's reins and walked together to reach the shed, parting ways with them. Robin then turned his head, so he was face to face with Lucina.

"She never stops smiling, does she?" He asked amazed at how anyone could be always so cheerful.

"She's the only one. Rarely everybody else does. How could we? We live the same nightmare every day, but enough with the chatter. Let's get going. We're late already."

"I'm sorry, I'm afraid I don't understand. Are things really that bad?"

"We will explain in time." She replied somberly.

He paused and thought it over, "So, you're saying that you have a house in the middle of nowhere?"

"We've learned to hide better than anything. It's the first rule to survive."

"Survive," he murmured. Judging from her expression, she looked serious, and he thought that it was better for him not to speak about it while she led him to their home. Surprisingly, it appeared that their shelter was close to them. At least, less than a few meters away was a small pond. Once they were there, exactly opposite to them, there was a huge rock. Leaves and branches covered the top of it, but the middle of it was carved. From what he could see, it was a symbol, a square with a cross inside it. He didn't pay much attention, and he didn't want to ask any more stupid questions like, 'Was this their hideout?'

They quietly walked the perimeter of the pond and stood in front of the rock where Lucina unsheathed her Falchion. It reflected the remains of the sun's rays as it was setting and she carved another square right next to the previous one.

"Let's head back, now," she told him. He nodded, without wanting to say anything, and she glanced back at him surprised at his change in behavior. "Why aren't you talking? I thought you were the chatty type." She said thinking that he was like her cousin.

"I don't know. I believe it's my natural reaction when I'm around new people who I haven't met before. Did you like that type of me?" Robin responded curious.

"No… Gods no…" She said immediately. He frowned in response, but remained calm as they continued moving forward. Suddenly, they heard chirping, and Lucina tried to figure out which bird made that sound, because she couldn't remember it. However, the bird in question came fluttering into view and she saw the two legged creature land on a tree branch next to them. Its feathers were grey while its fuzzy belly was a reddish-orange.

"Look! There's a robin!" The stoic and careful girl suddenly cried in excitement. "They are very rare to see in these places. In fact, I can't remember the last time I saw one of them here. The last time was with… father…" She said lowering her head and returning to her former guarded self.

"That's it! That's my name!" Robin said happily. "My name is Robin! I know it!" Unfortunately, his voice scared the bird away, but it had already served its purpose.

Lucina however, was too preoccupied with a horrid memory to recognize the missing bird or recovered name.

"Hey are you ok? You look pale," he asked worried.

"Yes. Let's just get going." She said somberly and looked inside the pond. It was reflecting her face, and it looked so dark and sad. Trying not to think about it, she raised her Falchion in the air and the pond bubbled in response. A bright green mist started approaching them, and the mist grew bigger and thicker with time. Robin couldn't even see past his nose, and the only thing he could make out was a small light.

"Lucina! Where are you? What's going on?" He said alarmed. The mist grew so big that he couldn't even breathe right. "Lucina!" He cried afraid. He started coughing without realizing it, and his eyes closed as he felt an extreme need to rest. Now he couldn't see anything but darkness.

"He's waking up! Stay back everyone!" Robin slowly opened his eyes. Surprisingly enough, he found himself lying in a soft bed. He didn't know what was scarier; that he was in an unknown place all-alone, after a quite weird incident, or that a lot of strangers surrounded him and acted like they had never seen a human before.

"Lucina!" He cried as he woke up in a hurry, but she was nowhere to be found. The room was as plain as it could get. It had a bed, a table, a small window and, a lot of people. It was starting to get dark, so the only light that the room saw was from the many candles.

"Everyone! He's walking up! I repeat he's walking up!" The young girl said with joy while another woman approached the crowd.

"Are you all daft? What's going on?" She asked.

"Lucina found a survivor and he's waking up! It felt like ages! Won't you greet him?" She told her.

Robin couldn't do anything but admire the woman's looks. She was quite tall, with long scarlet red hair. She had two pigtails. She wore a yellow vest and a dark brown tunic, and he tried to get up closer in order to greet her properly. With a quick movement he was standing in front of her and the others. He had completely forgotten everything that he'd been through, his scars and pain, and instead focused on his new situation. The only thing that mattered right now to him was getting some words out of his mouth.

"Um, hello everyone. I am Robin. Your friend Lucina found me in a destroyed village wounded and injured. I would have died without her, but she didn't stop there, as she brought me here as well. I would like to thank you for accepting me here…-" but before he could finish his words the woman laughed mockingly.

"Is this a joke? You should have left him in the village. Who told you we accepted you? Don't make me laugh. Nobody here trusts you and we'll never will. Lucina told us about you. I don't know why everyone here is so excited, but until you pass the "test" don't expect me to even look at you. Humph!" She huffed and turned her back at him while she left the room without any care for the wounded man.

"Wow…" He was speechless.

"It appears you met Severa!" He heard a familiar voice.

"Lucina!" He said relieved to see her. "I don't get it. What's all this about?"

"Look. I don't know what or who you remember, but right now we're at war against the dragon lord Grima and his Risen forces. He was the one responsible for the village destruction. It was our job not to let that happen, but we arrived too late." She lowered her head with regret. "It's a miracle that you're even alive, because everyday those fiends cut down people without mercy or mistake. That's why it is so surprising to find a survivor, and we produced the green mist to put you to sleep so you wouldn't know where our hideout was. It seems suspicious that they neglected you and it is possible that this could all be a trap. So for now, you will need to pass a test to prove your sincerity. If you do, you will earn our full trust. If you fail, I am afraid we'll part ways."

"By 'part ways' you mean that you will put me to sleep forever?" He grimaced.

"Yes." She replied coldly. She hated to say that, but she had to protect her friends and her mission above all else. "But don't worry, for unknown reasons a lot of the guys here seem to like you already and I have a feeling you'll pass too. Now rest a bit, I'll tell Severa to bring you some food. I also recommend you save your strength because tomorrow will be a long one." She then turned to her companions and said, "So let's give this man some space."

"Okay." the young girl nodded and said, "Bye Robin and I hope you pass!"

He hoped the same, but as she was about to leave he asked "Hey! Before you go, would you let me know your name?"

"Nah" She said with a smile and left, causing the men on the room to laugh secretly.

"What?" Robin replied not understanding why she refused to give her name. Was it another way of hiding their identity? Soon enough, the room was clear, and he saw outside of the window. The moon started glowing, and he rested in the bed again. Looking at the candles around him and noticing the dark sensation that filled his stomach, he resigned to resting in the dimly lit room. As his eyes came to a close, his mind filled with one final thought. "Here we go…

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 1: Rebirth

A/N (Authors Note): There you have it! Chapter 1 (II) as promised!

Clarifications

[1]: Most of the future children will have their specific parent's hair color in order to avoid answering the question: Who's the father/mother?

I would like to thank you for your extremely great support! The views skyrocketed with the previous chapter. Be sure to tell me if you like seeing the chapters this small and frequent (2-3 days) or big (like 2-3 together) and inconstant (7-10 days). The decision is all yours.

Be sure to leave a review and tell me what you think of the story!

No copyright intended.

Until next time, please have yourselves a damn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 4: Chapter 2: Loyalty

Loyalty

"Radiant DAWN!" The vibrant man cried. He held his sword tight, then raised his hand and proceeded to throw it at his opponent. Robin, who was caught off guard was unable to react in time as the sword crashed into his chest with the edge cutting through his clothing. The hit was strong enough to knock him down, and the man shook his head in disappointment, "Dead. Thank goodness we are using wooden swords. If you want to pass the test you will have to try harder." The colorful swordsman offered his hand to help Robin back up and said, "Come on, let's try again. I see that you have some potential."

"They might be made from wood, but they still hurt." Robin told him as he felt the numbness return from all of his bruises.

"Don't worry, eventually the pain dulls away." The blue haired princess commented as she walked into the room. It wasn't anything special, but a square room large enough to fit a battle arena with windows on each side along with weapon racks to hold their equipment. "How's he doing?" She asked as she glanced back to Owain.

"Lucina! Right on time. He got up early at the dawn just like us. So I followed your orders and until now we've been training. He isn't ready for the test, but just give me some time for one last fight. Don't worry, I'll inform you when he's ready."

"Good, thank you for training him Owain, but please hurry, we have no time to waste." She said and turned her back to leave the training room.

"There she went, completely ignoring me." Robin thought as he sighed. Owain also saw Robin's action and broke his silence.

"You know if you fail you're going to die, right? If you keep thinking about irrelevant things that would distract you from battle then it will be your own undoing. So come on now! You hold a negative record of 5 wins and 11 loses. Clear your mind and defeat me. Damn it! Just when I thought you were the one I was searching for." Owain tried to inspire his apprentice.

"Searching for what?" Robin asked in wonder.

"A sidekick of course. Grima may have killed our people, but he can't kill our dreams. Once this is over, my dream is to be part of the legends like those that fought before me. The legendary Owain and his sidekick Robin!" He cried fondly and with some pride at the thought. "You know, like the tales I heard when I was a young toddler." He smiled eager to become the next great legend.

"Well, I'll glad to help you, but we should discuss about that sidekick part." Robin grinned back as he felt the man's enthusiasm. "Although you can relax, I'll do everything I can to pass."

"Great to hear! I've bet my last two dessert rations on you. I don't want to lose them."

"What? Then I have no choice but to attack! Hi-ah!" Robin shouted and charged with his sword. He was aiming directly for his opponent's head, but Owain blocked the hit with his blade.

"You'll have it! Sacred STONES!" Owain yelled ferociously. The swordsman then jumped and spun in midair. Robin watched curiously as his opponent appeared to be dancing in the arena instead of fighting. "What is he doing? This is the first time he's tried something like this." He questioned as he tried to assess the situation. "I know! He's trying to make me lose focus! Like earlier when… she got in. So I have to focus!" He quickly thought.

"Clear MIND!" Robin yelled and attacked him again, this time aiming at his knees. Owain blocked it with his sword in a quick move and waited while Robin's eyes and his locked. They were waiting for their respective opponent's next move as a bitter silence fell across the room. Owain would be the one to make the first move in an attempt to surprise Robin, and he pressed his foot on the ground implying that he was aiming to attack him from the left. However, in a blink of an eye, he moved his body and changed direction to hit him from the right. While Robin couldn't predict the change, he instinctively spun to dodge the hit, and sent his wooden blade crashing at Owain's back.

"Gah!" he yelped back in pain, but smiled back with delight. "Bravo! That's 6-11. I still win, but that move you did was great. Just clear you mind and everything will be okay. Now, wait here," Owain order and proceeded to leave the room to let Lucina know he was ready for the test. This left Robin alone once again, and he looked around gazing at some

weapons to pass the time, until he found something that really surprised him. There was a transparent case made from glass with a lance inside of it. From the outside it had a label:

"My Shell Lance. A weapon to remember my love. –Cordelia"

He wondered what was so unique with that weapon, apart from its obvious sea jewels. Strangely, it looked like it was greatly forged, although he had a feeling it was handmade. But it didn't seem to have been used in a battle before either. It was unscathed, and without rust or blemish. Robin then observed that the weapon itself had something written on it. So he tilted his head to try to see what it said.

"Robin!" He stopped and turned to see it was the young girl from yesterday.

"Hey! I remember you! Why didn't you tell me your name when I asked you?" His words made her cover her eyes with her hand in annoyance. She got closer to him and said. "Augh, this happens every time! My name is in fact "Nah"! Yes. I have a silly name I know, but it came from someone who was special to me."

Robin started laughing, pretty hard actually, much to Nah's annoyance.

"Don't make me mad! I can eat you whole with one move! I'm a-" Robin had shook his hand to sign her to stop.

"Haha. I'm not laughing because of your name," He said while calming himself down.

"What? Your not?" She asked surprised.

"Of course not. That would be rude and hurt your feelings which is the last thing I want to do. I was laughing because you have a special name, but you don't actually know it."

"I don't see why it is special. Everyone always laughs when they hear it."

"It's their fault that they can't see its uniqueness. And it's double their fault that they hurt your feelings," Robin told her sincerely while she stared at him silently.

"Thanks, I never thought of it that way before." She lowered her head as she reflected on it. "I do hope you pass today, because it would be a shame to lose someone like you from what I've seen so far."

"I am not sure if I'll win if I don't know what to face, but I don't plan on dying if I can help it."

Suddenly they heard the sound of multiple footsteps coming from behind them.

"They're here." Nah realized that this would be the moment of truth. "Go and stand at the middle of the arena! Quick!" Robin did as she said and stood still wondering what he might face. Then a horde of people walked inside the room and Robin feared he might have to fight them all. "Here we go!" Robin thought and prepared his wooden sword. They surrounded the small arena, so every one of them could see him. Lucina was there too standing directly opposite of him. He took a deep breath to steady himself as he watched them, wondering whom his opponent might be, or if it was to be all of them. He shook his head in surprise when he saw a hairy man with huge muscles coming at him and he gulped knowing he was in for a challenge.

"Robin," he said. " understand that if you fail, you will... lose your life?"

"I do and I will accept your judgment. I would gladly follow the rules, even if that would cost me my life," Robin responded earnestly.

"Very well, I present you your o-opponent; one of our best soldiers, and a true warrior."

"Lady Severa!" Owain gestured letting her know it was time. She then entered the room and she was exactly the same as she was the day before. Still messing with Robin's head with her imposing way of walking and her harsh presence. The rest moved out-of-the-way for her to pass, and she entered the arena holding her katana. Robin bowed respectfully to greet his opponent, but she ignored him. He was sweating a little nervous, but remembered Owain's words: "Clear Mind"

"I must admit you were the last person I was expecting. Good luck," He wished her.

"Oh, please… I don't need luck. Prepare your weapon and let's finish this," She told him coldly. Robin unsheathed his wooden sword once again and took his battle stance.

"Are you daft? You will fight with this? Why do you think death is your penalty for losing? We'll use real swords. Give him a

real one guys and let's finish this," She said, obviously irritated. Lucina then left her position and gave him a steel sword. He smiled at her, but she didn't respond. Severa then prepared her killing edge, and he saw the ferocity in her eyes which made him gulp.

"Let's do this!" Robin said passionately, not willing to be beat before the battle began.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 2: Loyalty

A/N (Author's Note): Happy mother's day everyone! This will also be part 1 out of 2 with the second one coming tomorrow. That's why it ended up being a bit short. More details about the chapter will be in the next author's note. Please remember to tell me what you think so far! Thank you for your great support.

No copyright intended.

Until next time, please have yourselves a good one! ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 5: Chapter 2: Loyalty (II)

Loyalty (II)

He swung his new steel blade around as he shifted his battle stance. He had gotten used to his wooden sword, but this one was heavier and uncomfortable to use. He stared a bit at his opponent. He saw her relaxed, but a bit irritated at the same time by him. Her behavior intrigued him and he felt that she had a long kept secret buried deep inside her.

He remembered the lance he saw earlier and how it was entrusted to her. Maybe it was just a handmade one, but it meant a lot. That lance was the proof that someone loved her very much. Unfortunately for him, Severa was still the person that could end his life if he let his guard down. He didn't even know how she used her sword, or her fighting style. The only thing that he could do was predict and foresee her actions. He seemed to have an act for thinking of winning strategies in just a couple of seconds which might have carried over from his lost memories. He lost his train of thought wondering what his past might have been like, but then he heard her charging at him with a fury and had little choice but to react.

"Hi-ah!" She cried and rushed at him with her killing edge. Quickly, his heartbeat rose and adrenaline pumped through his body as he prepared himself. He felt the cold sweat in his forehead, and he took a deep breath to respond with a swing of his own. The sound of the two blades hitting one another rang through the room, and he saw her shaking her head furiously with more rage as she pushed her blade aside. She seemed surprised that he blocked her blow, and was expecting this to be over before it began.

"Perfect." He thought noticing the change in her. This gave him a small advantage as his opponent wouldn't have a *clear mind*. Or at least, that was what he hoped. Then, she came to him with a volley of fast moves, and faked an attack that caught Robin off guard while she used her left hand to throw a punch in his chest. Her strategy paid off and hit dead on his large wound. Unfair play? Maybe it was, but there are no rules other than to survive in this world. This instinct of survival was shown when she stroke him with her fist. Robin shouted and knelt down from the severe pain as he saw her blade at his neck. Blood was seeping through his reopened wound, and he looked heavily fatigued.

"First rule of fighting, have no weakness, and if you do, then don't show them. Second, have no remorse for your opponent," She said with a cold tone. They were heavy words, but they gave Robin a clue on what her next attack would be; a chop at his neck. She raised her sword and he knew it was coming. He rolled over and got up as quickly as he could. Fortunately enough, he was alive and still on his game. He observed her, and she was obviously aggravated about how he still had enough energy to act so quickly and was also caught off-guard. "Time to think. She is obviously good with the sword, but she must have a weak spot somewhere." He thought quickly.

He then attacked her this time, aiming at her lower body. She blocked the hit easily and responded with a swing aimed at his neck again. Although, he dodged the hit and responded with a sweeping leg kick. She never saw that one coming, as she was sure that her sword would find target with her previous move, and it had cost her dearly. Meanwhile, Robin already planned his next move and didn't let her recover. He immediately grabbed her from her biceps and shook them with a violent force so that her katana would fall to the ground. With her arms pinned and defeat looking inevitable, she instinctively hit his stomach with her head as strong as she could in a last ditched effort. However, this time he withstood the hit, and pushed her away while he kicked her weapon to the corner of the arena. To which Owain watched in both pride in awe at his apprentice.

"That's it. Say goodnight." Her words made Robin a bit confused. Although he had the upper hand she felt comfortable about the outcome. Was she just arrogant or she was about to show her secret technique that Robin was waiting for? Either way she rushed at him, while Robin did the same, thinking that what she was about to do was suicide. Then, once she had reached close to him she pressed her first foot on the ground, implying she was aiming to attack him from the right, but in a blink of an eye, she moved her body so she changed direction and tried to get past him from the left. Luckily, Robin saw this coming from miles away since Owain did the exact same thing earlier. So he grabbed her and they fell together on the ground. With him lying on top of her, staring at her pure hazel eyes. At the same time he held her arms tight, so she wouldn't do anything that could surprise him.

"Are we done here?" He asked, but didn't get a response. He felt that she was lost in her thought staring at him too. He felt weird, but in a *nice* kind of weird. He then whispered to her as they both got up. "My first rule: Never be predictable."

She shook her head, revealing her annoyance and silently walked her way out of the room. He felt relieved knowing it was over and inhaled deeply. He then exhaled with great force as the fight felt like it had lasted for an hour. He heard clapping and saw Nah running at him. She jumped and hugged him.

"You earned me an extra desert ration and no chores for a week! Thanks!" She said happily knowing she had won her

bet. Robin smiled and looked at the rest. He saw Lucina, but she didn't reveal any emotion. She just clapped, but he got the feeling that she was deeply lost in her thought too. He then saw Owain who nodded his head to him and winked which made Robin feel proud of himself. Suddenly, he sensed someone touching his shoulder from the back and he jumped in surprise.

"Stay still, wontcha?" He heard a rough voice call to him and felt his chest getting colder and colder, and in a couple of seconds his wound didn't cause him any more pain.

"Thanks…erm?"He scrunched his eyes not remembering being introduced to his helper.

"Brady! No prob. man. Anytime. You're one of us now," he told him.

"Phew, so now what?" He calmly asked as he looked back at the crowd.

"Now, you will come with me. Your exceptional fighting skills earned you your first mission. Come, I'll reveal you the details, we have no time," a man close to him said. He was wearing a large pointed hat.

"May I ask your name too?" He asked unsure.

"I am called Laurent. It is a pleasure to finally meet you. Now please come," he motioned to follow and Robin did. They walked out of the training room to the corridors and he noticed the building he was in seemed old, like an old castle or something. He tried to see outside of the windows, but all he could see were trees and that he was a lot higher than them. Finally, when they reached the room they were heading, Laurent opened the door and brought him into a large library. Every shelf was filled with stacks of books, and there was a desk in the front right corner with a window overlooking a bed.

"Did you write all these?" Robin asked amazed at the collection.

Laurent smiled and said, "No… well to be clear, not all of them. My mother wrote most of these books. She was a unique female and a great author. Now about your first mission, which starts right now. Lucina, Owain and you will be heading to rescue a family in the woods. Gerome told us that Risen hit the area and that we should hurry. Are you in?"

"Of course"

"Good. Then drink… where is it again?" He was searching for something; he rapidly moved his head around in an attempt to find it. "Ah, here we are." He said and showed him a small bottle.

"Let me guess… You'll put me to sleep again right?"

"Right."

He sighed and grabbed the potion. "What else can I do?" He then opened it and drank the liquid inside it. "Hmm… It didn't taste that ba-…" He immediately felt dizzy and fell on the ground unconscious.

When he opened his eyes and looked around, noticing he was in an environment closely resembling the one he was in yesterday. There were trees all around him and fresh air blowing at him.

"Sleep well, Robin?" Lucina asked him as she noticed him stir.

"Well… I can't say that I didn't," he said with a smile.

She nodded and said, "Then let's move. The house must be close and- " Her attention changed when she noticed the place she was looking for and cried out, "Look up there!"

The two other party members did and found a house resting on the apex of a hill.

Lucina then said, "We will need to split up. I will head to the house and you will stay here with Owain and fight any Risen that might show up," She ordered and started running in the woods without looking back. Once again Robin was left alone with the vibrant swordsman and he sighed to say, "There she goes again. It seems like I can barely say a few words to her before she runs off."

"She's a really nice person once you get to know her, but she's been through a lot," The swordsman frowned. "Let's take a look around and if everything is clear we'll follow her," he continued.

They quickly checked their surroundings. Everything seemed quiet and safe. Then, because they hadn't found any Risen,

they were trying to catch up with her, but heard branches cracking.

"Wait, someone is here." Robin told him as he sensed another presence.

"Not someone, something," Owain corrected him. "Stay close. You haven't faced anything like this yet."

"Owain!" He shouted and pointed at a shadow coming at them. Instantly, a dark figure jumped in front of them with a spear in its hand. Robin didn't know what to make of it, because this creature's skin was a decayed darkish grey while its eyes were glowing bright red. Strangely enough, it had long brown hair and wore a yellow mask, but it had no armor so it showed its deep and menacing form.

"Gwaaaa… Kill…" It yelled with its deep and haunting voice. Its presence alone gave Robin the creeps.

"This thing is over two meters high. How will we…?"

"Don't be afraid, just attack it!" He cried and unsheathed his sword. "Oh! Legendary Mysteltainn lend me your power!" He continued and rushed at the monster. He pushed his blade inside the creature's chest and dark purple ashes started to emit from it. Unfortunately, Owain's blade was stuck inside the monster's belly, and he was unable to get it out.

"Owain! Watch out!" Robin screamed.

Unfortunately, it was too late for Owain by the time he recovered his sword. The monster spread its arm and delivered a huge blow which sent him flying over ten meters away leaving him unconscious on the ground. Now Robin was alone with only his steel sword to keep him company. He was afraid, of course, who wouldn't be? But he tried to diminish these feelings by taking a deep breath and examining his opponent. "Hmmm… stabbing it didn't work, but what about decapitating it?" He thought, while trying to remain clam.

With slow, but large movements the walking beast was getting closer and closer. However, undeterred, Robin charged forward and when he reached a close distance of two with three meters away he started to run circles around it. The zombie fighter was confused at this tactic, and it looked around and around just to get a glimpse of its opponent, only to fail every time.

Robin was moving really fast. "This is my opening," he thought. Then, he jumped at the back of the monster and with all his strength he swung his blade high enough to slice its neck and sever its head. Immediately, the red glow of its eyes stopped and the body of the zombie fell apart, turning to deep purple ashes. Robin filled with joy for his small accomplishment. Then, he rushed to check on his friend to see how bad he was. When he reached him, Owain's head was bleeding and he might have a concussion. Suddenly, he heard a woman's scream in great pain. "Aauuuughhh!"

"It's Lucina!" Owain yelled afraid. "They got her. Gods. They got her."

"What?! No that can't be!" Robin yelled not willing to believe it. "Maybe there is still time, maybe we can save her!"

"No, It's too late. Too late. Run for your life. Leave this place or you will fall too!" Owain cried before losing his consciousness in front of Robin's eyes.

"No I, I can't abandon her. " Robin shouted back. "Hang on Owain, I'll get help for you too, but Lucina is in more danger." Without any more thought, he started running with all of his might at the same direction Lucina had gone and he passed through trees and bushes at full speed like nothing was going to stop him. He was determined to save her, at any cost to himself. Then, the house appeared in his horizon, and it was plain without many features.

"There it is. Lucy… Stay strong. I'm coming!" He cried and rushed forward to reach the front door only to find it was locked. So he kicked the door with all of his might and broke the lock apart with one strong blow. He then jumped inside holding his steel blade tightly, and to his surprise found that no one else was inside the building. There was no sign of any life, and Robin feared the worst.

"Lucina!" He shouted at the top of his lungs desperately trying to find her. "Gods, please don't let me be too late."

He frantically began looking around in a desperate attempt to find her. "LUCINA!" He shouted again, praying that she was still alive to respond back. He had to save her, he had to. She had already saved his life once, and he owed her so much for it. "I have to find her, and I have to make those damn things pay. Quick Robin, think. They had to have dragged her somewhere. Maybe if I can-"

At that time something happened that instantly left Robin in a state of loss. He saw Nah, Brady, the hairy guy with the long ears, Laurent and others he had yet to meet all approach him from a concealed door at the back of the house. He didn't understand what was going on, so without thinking, Robin yelled at them that Lucina needed their help, but

stopped when he felt a touch on his shoulder from the back.

"Congratulations Robin. You just passed the true test. You're a Shepherd now," Lucina gave him a warm smile as he turned around. He was greatly relieved to see that she was okay, and unbeknownst to him, her smile made him blush.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 2: Loyalty

A/N (Author's Note): There it is! Like I promised! Phew…

So what you thought about that small twist? Judging from the title, Lucina didn't test Robin's skills as a fighter, but his "Loyalty" to a cause and her. And he succeeded. He didn't let her "die". He didn't run like a dog to save himself like a coward. He rushed to help her, even if that would cost him his life. This meant "loyalty" to friendship and this also meant that he had what it took to become one of them. But how did Lucina and the others set up such a trick? What about Owain… didn't he fall on the ground unconscious? These questions will be answered in the next chapter.

Until next time, please have yourselves a good one :)

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 6: Chapter 3: The Ark

The Ark

"Congratulations Robin. You just passed the true test. You're a Shepherd now," Lucina gave him a warm smile as he turned around. He was greatly relieved to see that she was okay, and unbeknownst to him, her smile made him blush.

He was staring at her, replying with a smile on his own. He felt his body flooding with happiness. She had, finally, expressed a positive feeling towards him. Maybe it was something as small as a smile. Maybe it was nothing. What was certain was that, for him, it was the first step to living his dream. A secret dream that was buried deep inside him. When he felt it was getting awkward, he looked around and noticed that the other Shepherds were happy that he had passed as well.

His eyes were moving quickly as he searched for a particular person. Unfortunately as long as he searched he just couldn't find her.

"So… Robin. Don't you have anything to say?" Lucina asked him, much to his surprise.

"How did you guys set this up, and why?" He asked, like he couldn't believe what was happening. "I mean I am just a random guy from a burned village with no memory of what happened." He continued unsettled. All those joyful feelings he was feeling faded away as a new thought overtook him. "It seems like a waste of resources to use on me."

"What do you mean Robin?" Lucina asked. Meanwhile, her friends came close to them and wanted to congratulate Robin themselves. He gave no attention and continued. He was serious.

"I mean, why go through all of this trouble for someone like me? If I was such a high risk, then why waste so much resources for someone who might be of no use."

Lucina did not understand the question, because the answer seemed obvious. Why wouldn't they want to help someone else if they were sincere with their actions?

"Pardon me, Robin. The situation is not as you think. You are not as high of a risk as it may seem, but it's protocol for all possible recruits. Someone taking part in the test that runs away is both a coward, and possibly a traitor to our cause. You on the other didn't run. So you proved that you're worthy of being part of group." Laurent explained to him systematically.

"I see. But the Risen and Owain? That seemed too real to be faked, and the risks would not be worth it."

"See for yourself!" Laurent told him and soon Robin saw a familiar face.

"Owain! Thank Naga you are okay" Robin said seeing him walking toward them with a grin on his face.

"Yeah, sorry for tricking you." Owain told him calmly. "But as you can see I'm fine."

"But what about that disgusting creature? I presume that thing is part of the Risen you keep speaking of, but I don't think our enemy would willingly take part in this exercise."

"It was because of *this*," Owain told him and removed a small box from his pocket. It gave off a strange and horrible smell, and Robin felt like he couldn't breathe. "This is a reeking box. Inside it has the purple dust you saw earlier. Let's just say it can call a Risen instantly, out of nowhere. Our enemies use them to grow their army bigger and stronger. They, compared to us, can control them too. We haven't figured a way yet," he told him.

"Yikes. I got it. I got it. Put it back please," he told him quickly not wanting to see another one of those hideous things. "So that means that my match with Severa was fixed as well?"

"Good job captain obvious! You thought a 'C minus' swordsman could beat me?" Severa came into the picture and looked back at him appalled. "Think twice, smarty-pants. You 'beat' me because you predicted my final move. A move I told Owain to show you in your last practice-fight."

Robin was both confused about her appearance and disappointed about her words. He also wondered where she had shown up from. Had she just entered the building, or was she there the whole time?

"Laurent?" He asked hoping for an explanation.

"Sorry, Robin. That was part of the plan too. But I wouldn't say you are a C minus fighter, if that would make you feel better."

"C minus?" Robin whispered not knowing what it meant. "Why do I keep having more questions than answers?"

"It's a way to categorize ourselves depending on our strengths and weaknesses. Laurent's idea," Owain added.

"And now what?" He asked for one final time.

"Now we return to base. We'll pack our things and leave." Lucina told him promptly.

"We're leaving?" He asked surprised

"Of course. We are heading to the Ark. It is an important place that will help us determine how to fight off these creatures you just saw." She said and made a hand gesture to signal for everyone to head outside. Robin got out and felt the cold air again covering his body. He sighed and moved with the rest back to the base.

When they got back, Robin entered his room and took one last look at the window. He opened it and saw the black dark sky filled with small bright stars. Then he observed the wildlife, the small birds, chirping loudly. He smiled. Then a little bird came flying at him. He spread his right arm for the little birds to sit on it, and he observed its red fluffy belly closely with the help of candles' light. "There there little fella. I won't hurt you. Especially since we are both a type of robin." He laughed lightly to himself. "Lucina also seemed very fond of you too. Hmm? You are asking who she is? She's… a unique woman. To be honest I know little about her, as I only met her yesterday. She wasn't keen talking to me, though. But she seemed more open today after the ... test. Oh! Did you see that?" Robin asked in awe as the sky looked less bleak for a moment.

The little bird chirped almost to acknowledge him, even though he knew that wasn't possible. Yet, it was still on his right hand's index finger, looking at him back curiously. "That my friend was a falling star. In these situations we make a wish and wait until it comes true. Hmmm, Now you want to know what I wished for, right? Heh, I wished to find out about who I am and I also wished for that girl, Lucina, to find what she really wants. To be honest, you don't know how lucky you are my friend. There is a great war happening, and it seems like my new friends have been on the run for a while. Not to mention tomorrow I will go to a place called 'Ark' with them. But you have those wings ready to fly wherever you want, free of any troubles." He told the robin in wonder. "And maybe go to your family if you felt like it. I, on the other-hand don't even know if I have a family. If there was anyone special in my life, if my parents are alive, or where I lived. But I guess I am lucky to be here. These guys here opened their hearts and let me in. For now, I'm not sure I could be more grateful."

"Erh-hum. Robin?" He heard a feminine voice.

"Yikes!" He reeled back in surprise. Immediately, the little robin fled for his finger, and he saw it flying for one last time and lost it when it entered the woods. He then turned around and saw-

"Nah! How long have you been here?" He asked surprised. She was staring him with her bright pink eyes, wearing her cute white dress and red boots.

"Having fun talking to the birdie?"

Robin felt embarrassed and said, "W-what. No! I wasn't-"

She gave a soft chuckle and said, "It's okay Robin. We all have our secrets. If you take me for example, I never met my parents. I was young when they passed away. I never met them. You, on the other, live with the hope of meeting them, again someday. I don't have hope for that. Then after their death, the darkest years of my life came," she said. Robin saw her moist eyes, as she was verging on tears.

"Nah. I had no idea," He said trying to calm her. He approached her gently and let her touch her head on his shoulder. He tried to stroke her sea-foam green hair and listened to her crying and it broke his heart.

"Easy, Nah… I'm here. Don't worry, you have me," he told her as he was holding her tight. "We have a long day tomorrow, I guess," he continued. The young girl, then wiped her tears, took a deep breath and thanked him for his help. She nodded to him.

"I apologize Robin. Every time I think about it, it's just…"

"Shh… It's okay," Robin tried to comfort her.

"My door is always open, for anything you need. And we can continue our talk at some other time, right?"

"Right," she said, and then gave him a quick hug. She then moved her head close to his, pressed her lips on his right cheek and quickly left the room and left him immobilized. He closed his eyes and sighed. He got on his bed again, lifted the sheets and slept to gain strength for his next long day.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 3: The Ark

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! This chapter was a "quiet" and smooth one, more like the aftermath of the previous chapter. In the next one our characters will head to visit the "Ark"…

No copyright intended.

Until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 7: Chapter 3: The Ark (II)

The Ark (II)

"Chirp Chirp," the birds echoed in Robin's room as the sunlight cast through the window and onto his face. Feeling the warmth of the sun's rays, he opened his eyes refreshed and ready for his trip. He didn't know what he was expecting, but he felt confident and optimistic about today. He inhaled and smelled something extraordinary, a scent that was light, sweet, and with a small touch of spiciness. Immediately, his belly grumbled and called for breakfast already intoxicated by the aroma. So he got out of bed and noticed his robe on the desk while he looked out of his window and saw the bright sun.

Before leaving the room he inspected his plain beige shirt and decided to leave his belt and robe in the room. When he got out, an enormous corridor expanded in front of him. He stared at the rocky floor and the open windows on his left while next to him there was a strong dark grey wall made of stone. He felt the breeze coming from the windows. "What a great way to start your day," he thought as his nose showed him the way to the dining room. It was the door on his right after he had passed five doors. The door was open, and the scent of the well-made food got stronger with each step. When he went inside he greeted his new friends, and he noticed the room was large enough for a table to seat about twelve to fifteen people. There were also two windows in front of him, the kitchen on his left, and the table on his right. Cynthia was overseeing the food while there were small cupboards next to her that were used for storing the food. He saw the small fire, next to her, and the cauldron on it.

"Good morning everyone! What do we have here?" He asked and listened as his stomach started making weird noises again.

"Dear Robin. I can't compromise with the idea you are indeed a lucky person. Your "luck" must exceed 30, for sure."

"Guys… What is Laurent talking about, again?" He asked confused by his friend's words.

"Good morning Rob Rob!" Cynthia told him with a great broad smile. "Come sit down with us. The food will be ready in any minute."

"Yeah! Come right here Rob Rob," a man told him sarcastically making the others giggle. He seemed in shape, wearing tight blue clothes and dark black pants. He was stroking his bright brown hair and signed him to draw near.

"Could you please remind me your name? It seems to have slipped my mind. I mean I remember you from yesterday, but…"

"The name's Inigo. I will not rest until every woman in the realm swoons at my name. That's my life long goal and shows my eternal soul." he told him with a bright smile.

"But right now he fails miserably," Owain added, causing the room to exchange chuckles.

"You never seem to stop with your stupid jokes don't you?" He asked him rhetorically, in an irritated way.

"You better calm down Inigo, because my sword hand itches!" Owain warned.

"Stop it you two! We shouldn't be fighting with each other," Brady yelled.

"So… Inigo it's nice to officially meet you." Robin smiled back.

"The pleasure's mine. So you must be eager to meet all of us. So let's start from the beginning. In front of you there's Lucina. Next to her is Cynthia's seat who is cooking now, then Owain, then Brady, then the guy with the mask Gerome, then Laurent. Opposite of Lucina, is your seat, then me, then next to me is Kjelle one of the best knights out there, then there is 'Hurricane Severa.' He replied rather dramatically. "Next to her is the timid but friendly Noire, the shy Yarne, and our beloved Nah," he told him as everyone waved back.

"Great," he said and grabbed his seat. The wooden chair was a bit uncomfortable, but it was better than sitting on the floor.

"So… what was Laurent talking about earlier?"

"He believes he can judge someone's abilities as a unit by dividing them in smaller parts. They are hit endurance, strength, magic, skill, speed, luck, defense, resistance and movement. What they symbolize is a whole different story.

But I don't believe in such ridiculous things. Nobody can measure the spirit of a true fighter," Kjelle said and hit her fist on the table.

"I see…"

"Oh yeah! And I forgot the best part; skills! Our mage has observed our own fighting techniques, style and talents as units. He has even named them according to our moves. It's so silly…" She continued.

"Great spirits always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds," Laurent told her in an aggressive way. While Robin couldn't believe that another fight was on the verge of happening.

Fortunately enough, Cynthia left the pot on the table and caught everyone's attention. It emitted strong heat waves that made Robin feel like sweating. She opened the top and those colorful smells flooded Robin's scent receptors, again. It was beef boiled with tomatoes, oil, carrots potatoes, and with a small dose of cinnamon.

The food was as perfect as its smell, the meat was juicy and the flavour of the potatoes and the vegetables were unreal. The bad thing was that the portions were not that big to satisfy Robin's belly.

He finished eating and looked around him. Oddly enough he saw Yarne with two dishes of food, and Nah as well! "What in the world?" He thought, but decided not to speak. Instead, he thanked them for the meal.

"That was by far the greatest breakfast I can remember… And the only…" He told them.

"Actually it's our breakfast, lunch and dinner. You are indeed lucky to be eating this. Yesterday, do you remember when I gave you the eggs? Those were our one and only food for the day. Half egg for everyone. Thank goodness, Gerome found this animal on the wild. I had at least a month to see something like this. It's great that now we'll be heading to the 'Ark'. We're done clearing this area, so in a few minutes we're leaving," Owain told him.

The sun was too hot for Robin it seemed. Maybe it was because he was wearing his robe, and its color didn't help at all with the black shade absorbing most of the nearby sunlight.

"Robin! Would you mind hurrying? You are slowing us down a bit, you know," Nah told him. She was as Robin remembered her from yesterday, only now she was wearing her red cape and had her small bag. Either way he continued marching forward. Surpassing trees after trees, bushes after bushes, with no sign of flowers.

"Hey Nah! Do you have a moment?" He asked her. Nah smiled.

"I saw you earlier that morning having two dishes instead of the regular one. Why was that? No offense, or anything. It just seemed weird to me," he told her. She nodded in understanding. "It is because of this!" She said and showed her pointy and unique ears that were hiding under her bright green hair.

"Nah! What is this? Are you what I think you are?" He asked astonished of what he was seeing.

"Yes Rob Rob. I am a manakete, and Yarne is a taguel. I have a strong metabolism and to satisfy my body I need at least two dishes. Don't judge me from my small size in my human form. I get three to four times bigger when I turn into a dragon," she told him with a smile. She was obviously hiding her true identity to anyone except her team. Manaketes are rare species and rarely or never show themselves in public. Robin was slightly amazed from what he heard. The young and cute girl he knew was the team's powerhouse! While the others continued marching forward, they continued chatting.

"And one last thing. Why did Inigo call Severa 'Hurricane'?" He asked curious.

"Oh! You don't know how she got that name? It's an exciting story!" She told him thrilled. "Well there was a time that our team got separated to deal with Risen. I wasn't recruited for the team yet, but that was what they told me. Severa took down five Risen all by herself! With her trusty killing edge and bare hands."

"No! You're telling it wrong! In reality, she didn't have a weapon and there were more Risen. She was surrounded, but she still managed to survive. It was legendary. At least, that what I know," Owain corrected her. "Oh! And sorry for eavesdropping," he said. Robin was confused. "So who knows what really happened? Robin asked.

"Severa for sure and I believe Lucina as well. She was the only witness, but don't expect them to talk about that subject," Nah informed him.

"Great…" He replied.

Suddenly, a group of cavaliers appeared at the horizon. They ordered their horses to rush at them. They came with a lot of speed and their stallions were fast like the wind. Lucina saw them coming and with a hand gesture ordered everyone to stop walking until she ensured that they weren't their enemies while the two cavaliers were fast approaching them.

"En garde everyone." Lucina ordered, as everyone was preparing to engage a battle.

Robin was closely observing the cavaliers. He noticed that they were wearing a morion helmet with a red feather on it. And that they had sturdy armor. Soon, they arrived and told their stallion to stop. The first cavalier got down from his dark horse and demanded to speak with their leader. Robin then saw Lucina coming at them and explaining the situation. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw both genuflected for her. Then, they returned to their horses and said: "Milady, we'll guide you from here. Welcome back to the Ark." Lucina nodded and turned to her people.

"We've arrived everyone. It's been a while," she cried happily.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 3: The Ark

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! I managed to write this one and on time :P The "Ark" Chapter is consisted of one or two more parts. Sorry if this one was a "smooth" chapter with less acton, but I assure you that the next one will be satisfying. Now when will the next one be uploaded? I am not sure... In this period of my life I am truly busy and tired of working all day, so like I said, until June, it will be hard for me to write... After the middle of June I will be back 100% and the chapters will grow in number and in size! But writing makes me happy and I will definitely try to find some time to write the next one sooner.

You can always pm me or review your ideas, or what you think of the story so far, which are always appreciated and welcomed.

No Copyright intended. Please don't mind any grammatical errors.

Until next time, please have yourselves a good one ;P

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 8: Chapter 3: The Ark (III)

The Ark (III)

"We've arrived everyone. It's been a while," she cried happily.

The Shepherds marched forward, having the two cavaliers showing them the way. Oddly enough, their destination wasn't far. Once they reached deeper in the forest they found the entrance and the only problem was that they had to cross a large bridge made purely by rocks from Regna Ferox. Robin looked around him. He saw trees with huge trunks and looked up but still couldn't find the top of them. He was amazed by their size. That led him to assume that this place was quite secured, and that helped the trees grow in size. Under the bridge there was a rapid moving river with width at least 25m. He could even see people with their boats fishing and that got him excited. For the first time after two days and a long hour trip he saw people. Alive and safe. While they got close to the entrance of the bridge he got a glimpse of the Ark's gate and the sturdy walls extending from each side. It was jaw-dropping.

"That's "Porta ut Solem", meaning "the Gate to Sun". It was at least 12m high, with 25m width and 3m thick, but purely made from iron. It was made by 12 rows of steel bands, with the firsts being horizontal and the seconds vertical. Then as thick and tall are the fort's walls, made from two layers of hard rocks. Lucina's father, himself made it with the help of one of his closest friends … That's why it's called Ark. It was built as a refuge for the Great War between Plegia and Ylisse. The newly exalt Chrom lead the way with his close friend on his side, and won against the Mad King Gangrel who sought nothing more but to slaughter and create chaos. King Chrom's great victory over him was passed to the legends that the people keep telling the small children to grow up. *Mumble* Like Owain… Now it serves as a small town, unknown to Grima's forces and takes care of many people who need help," Nah told Robin.

"Wait! That means that Lucina is…" Robin told her with his eyebrows curved and high.

"Yes, the exalt of Ylisse… Or what remained of it. I might need to give you one or two history lessons later to enlighten you about in what time you woke up, he he," she said giggling.

"I know it's weird, but although I know a bit of geography, I can't seem to recall those great historic events… Sorry about that," he said.

"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Robin heard a familiar voice.

"Speak of the Grima! Lucina you scared us," Nah told her.

"Excuse me if I interrupted your chat or for eavesdropping. However, we need to cross the bridge, as the meeting will be held in at least an hour. Robin, I am afraid I might need you to come with me," Lucina told them.

"Of course milady, if only I knew… Please forgive my dreadful manners so far…" he said with his head lowered.

"Robin, you know this isn't the time for that. Just call me Lucina. I was never good with formalities, like my father. After all, there is no Ylisse…" She trailed off, but then quickly shook her head." But that's enough, let's keep going please," she said and ran to catch up with the two cavaliers.

The rest of the group followed them and crossed the magnificent bridge. Robin saw his friends being amazed by the view and from their change of scene. He thought of how lucky he was, again. "Laurent's right. My luck is over 30," he thought and silently laughed. When they reached the "Porta ut Solem" a second wave of soldiers came at them to check them. This time they were four cavaliers and a paladin. The paladin wore his shiny red and gold armor, which made Robin think that this guy might be important, and his golden helmet. He looked tall with brown hair and had his eyes frowned. The paladin quickly checked the Shepherds names and his men confirmed that they were on the list. Undeniably, there were some highly strict measures to get inside. It was the last safe place of the land after all. He checked on Robin again with his fierce look and troubled him. The paladin then asked his men if he was on the list and when they answered "No" he drew his blade and turned it against him. Lucina, who was unaware of what was going to happen, unsheathed her falchion and used herself as a body shield for Robin to calm the enraged man down. She explained to him he was one of them. The man then quietly stared at her. She then responded: "He has passed the test. As I told you he is qualified to enter." Her words apparently weren't enough as the paladin responded: "We'll see about that at the meeting."

Then the Shepherds were allowed to pass "the Gate to Sun". Kjelle looked at the cavaliers with respect. She turned at her team and said: "My mother was a distinguished cavalier. Every time I see one around I just can't help but think of her words "Kjelle, you are not cut out for it"," she said and sighed. While our team continued Robin got a taste of what an

actual town really looked like, people walking there and there, some children playing. The sidewalk was hand made, and the rocks were specially crafted one by one. There were white houses with flowerpots on their small balcony, containing orange to yellow tulips, scarlet red roses and daisies, of course, which got Cynthia quite excited. She had adopted her mother's habit of flower fortuning. A horse-drawing carriage then got past right next to them. Brady saw the coachman and remembered his mother.

Undoubtedly, this place brought everyone a lot of memories, except our Robin. After his meeting with the paladin he remained silent and often lost in thought. Lucina, who knew the streets and the place better than anyone, guided them to their destination, an unoccupied house. It was built close to the plaza and the flower shops. Its walls were white like the others, and on the first floor had a small balcony with a table with chairs and flowerpots close to it, where barely three people could sit. Lucina got to the sky blue door and got a key out of her pocket. It fitted the lock, and she opened the door. The team experienced the inside of the house. Although it lacked much furniture, it had a lot of rooms for two people. Fortunately enough, there were rooms for everyone. On the first floor, which included only three twin rooms, Lucina shared her room with Cynthia, Severa with Nah and Kjelle with Noire. On the ground floor, where the kitchen and the living room were, Robin shared his room with Owain, next to them were Inigo and Brady, Laurent with Gerome and…

"Psst! Owain… where will Yarne sleep? Obviously there aren't many beds for all of us. Don't tell me he'll stay the night on the couch?" Robin told him.

"He he. No. I believe you'll be as shocked when you heard that Nah was a dragon, but Yarne is a taguel. I'm not sure if Nah told you that," he responded.

"She had. But that means?" He asked.

"That means that Yarne is a beast too. A killer bunny I would say, which is called taguel. That's why he's… different. Anyway he grew in the wild and doesn't want to sleep in a bed, so he chooses the ground," Owain explained. They suddenly heard footsteps coming from the stairs. Robin got out of his room and saw Lucina. She pointed at him and he got close.

"Robin, if you have packed your things, we must hurry to the great meeting. They are expecting us," she said.

"And the others?" He asked.

"I am sure they will be fine by resting in their comfortable beds. Please we must go."

"So Lucina… Where are we heading again?" Robin asked her as they were fast pace walking. He even stumbled a few times.

"Each year, there is a meeting. It usually took place at Ylisse's grand castle, but after its fall it's held here, the last safe place of the world. Leaders of Valm, Plegia, Regna Ferox and more would gather and discuss about peace, war and other political subjects. My father used to bring me to those meetings. They were somewhat boring, but now I see how important they really are," she told him.

"You mentioned Ylisse's fall?"

"Yes. Ylisse the first victim of Grima's forces and himself. The fell dragon flew above the city and turned everything into ashes. Our beloved kingdom turned into ashes, in only one night. Imagine the risen you fought, but only millions of it. Our forces were strong, but lacked endurance. And so we fell. Unfortunately, most of my trusted people gave their lives for Cynthia, and me in order for us to escape. Until this day I think that it was a wrong choice. As their leader I should have fallen in the battle…" she said, surprising Robin.

"Never say that again! Do you hear me?" He shouted at her, madly. "Fights are won as easily as they can be lost. You have no responsibility for a fight that you were outnumbered. If you'd been killed, then I would have been dead too, remember? Although, I don't believe in fate, I believe that you survived for a reason. And I am sure that this reason is the one that will give us the strength to defeat him," he told her.

"Oh Robin. It is unclear if there were any survivors after the fight. It was all my fault…" Robin saw her eyes getting more wet by any second passing. He got closer to her and hugged her. Then he felt something he never expected; a pain in his chest, as she pushed him away.

"What do you think you're doing? They'll think we're…" She said.

"We're…?"

"A couple. That it was *this* reason that brought you here in the first place." Her words hurt him more than he imagined.

"Yes. You're right," he said lowering his head. "I don't care what others will say, but if you ever feel the need to talk to someone, I want you to know that my door will always be open," he continued, being calm and serious. He then saw that her tears were no more and he couldn't be more delighted. They continued their walk and eventually reached a great building. It looked old and old fashioned, but it bared the sacred crests of the all kingdoms of across the known land. Robin and Lucina knocked on the tall door. It was made from pure wood and he felt it with the palm of his hand. It was sturdy and hard, but green. Green, but not from paint.

"The wood is from the Mila Tree, at Valm. As tough as iron, right? Anyway, the conference is held here. You will meet the leaders of the rebellion. Be patient, tolerant and let me do the talking," she said. Robin nodded. Then, the door opened. He saw knights all around the luxurious hall. Unique paintings and unbelievable sculptures caught his eye, with the floor being shiny and having mosaic themes or even scenes from wildlife. But above else, what made him most "excited" was no other than the paladin, from before.

"Lady Lucina," the paladin said and bowed to her. "Seth," Lucina said and bowed as well.

He then saw Robin and murmured: "Robin…" with a bit aggressive tone. Robin didn't let him get into his head though. He thought it was natural of him to show distrust towards him. He probably would do the same if needed. This time he was not wearing his armor, but he had dressed up, possibly for this occasion.

He saw many more people talking. Some of them had fancy badges, others with long white hair and jewels that were rare, like rubies, sapphires, emeralds and more.

"Lady Lucina there is a person that is desperate to meet you. He is one of our finest tacticians and has driven us to many victories towards the risen. Oh! There he is," Seth said. Robin saw the young man Seth was talking about. He was wearing a robe just like his and had white hair just like he, but he was short, unlike him. Robin, at once, felt a pain in his head. He was aching, but tried hard enough not to show it. He noticed the man being surprised as he when they crossed their eyes. But the man smiled, in a way that looked like a smirk, and got close to them. He bowed to her and said: "Greetings dear fallen exalt of Ylisse. My name is Morgan. And who is that young gentleman you have there?" he asked meaning Robin. "Impossible!" Morgan thought. "He looks just like my master, but in his old and weak form. What kind of trickery is this?" He continued (thinking). Robin tried to set his headache aside, for this exact moment and greeted the man as well.

"My name is Robin. I am part of Lucina's team," he said giving him a handshake. "Shall we head to the meeting, now?" Robin asked Lucina, and Seth. He nodded and they headed at the convention room. It was about to start soon.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 3: The Ark

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! I'm back :P I found a little time and made part (III), I hope it is satisfying. I can clearly say that part (III) is the "calm before the storm". What storm? Well I may gave some clues away, but you've probably guessed it. Like I said in this period of my life I am truly busy and tired of working all day, so until June, it will be hard for me to keep writing... After the middle of June I will be back 100% and the chapters will grow in number and in size!

You can always pm me or review your ideas, or what you think of the story so far, which are always appreciated and welcomed. If you've spotted a small mistake (with plot or with the names) don't hesitate to pm me. I would like to thank you for your warm support so far and your positive comments. I believe it is my duty not to let you down ;)

No copyright intended. Please don't mind any grammatical errors.

Until next time, please have yourselves a good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 9: Chapter 3: The Ark (IV)

The Ark (IV)

As they moved forward, Robin noticed that the floor was sleek and bright because of the sun light shining through the windows. The floor's decoration was also made to amaze. It had two stripes made from pure gold, one on each side near the walls, and between them it was covered by solid white marble. On his left, the red wall was decorated with war paintings which showed different moment of battles through the years. On his right was a bright yellow wall with windows opposite to the paintings with the shudders up so the air could get in.

While they were heading to their room, a particular painting caught Robin's attention. It was the portrait of a man, probably a king. He had deep dark blue hair and blue eyes like Lucina. He wore a black jacket with only one sleeve, and the man also wore a white belt that served as a sheath for a blade. With his right arm he wielded Lucina's falchion, and Robin recognized it immediately. That could only mean one thing, and he examined the painting a bit more to double-check. The background was black and the man also wore a white cape and his right deltoid muscle had a symbol, one that he couldn't remember where he had seen last.

Lucina approached him and whispered in his ear that it wasn't time for these, but when she looked at it herself she froze. Right when Robin was about to say something, she grabbed him from his left bicep and pulled him in order for them to continue walking toward the convention room. Robin did as she said, without being able to get the man out from his head. Could he be Lucina's father? He could also be her uncle since he didn't know her family tree to be honest, but he had a feeling that was not the case.

After a while, they found the door to the room. Seth opened it for them and they entered into a large room. It had the same decoration as the other rooms and had a huge round table in which the rest leaders of the rebellion sit. Robin counted ten people including himself, and he saw the little tactician sitting with the other leaders which made him worried. However, He was already acting suspiciously and he didn't want him to cause any more trouble. So Seth showed them their respective seats and quietly made their way to them. Once they reached their seats it was time for the meeting to begin. A man got up from his seat and looked around at the members before he spoke. He was taller than Robin, a bit more muscular and looked to be around fifty-years-old. He had dark hair and a long black beard, to go with his black clothing. His only contrast was his blue eyes.

"I, Mus Khan of West Ferox welcome you to this year's convention. Like the year before, I shall speak the names of the participants. First , we welcome bow knight Bovis, Khan of East Ferox, General of Valm Tigris, Ylisse's Exalt Lucina, High priest Lepus, Paladin Equus, Sage Ovis, Paladin Seth, Grandmaster Morgan and um, aw yes, Robin Ylisse's tactician." Mus said chuckling. Then he looked directly at Robin. "It's utterly droll that Lucina's new tactician is named after the great Robin." Mus' words caught Robin's attention. His head ached, once more, but this time he couldn't control it. He caught his head with his hands discreetly to avoid any question. Mus, unfortunately, saw him and asked if he was all right.

"Yes, I am alright. Please excuse me, sir Mus. I might have gotten a cold, but I didn't mean to interrupt you." He said diplomatically.

"As we all know, Robin was king Chrom's right hand man. Together they ended the Mad king's war plans against the other countries and Walhart's imperialistic plans. They stood against those men that tried to destroy peace, but every legend must fall. It is a cruel fate! "Betrayed by someone close to them at the Dragon's Table, leading to the eventual resurrection of the dark lord. That's the end of this small story. That's the reason we are here to serve justice and bring peace, once and for all," Mus said and hit the table with his fist; it shook at his strength. Morgan smiled and took the word.

"But before we continue discussing our strategic plans, sir Mus, don't you think it should be a good idea to serve justice first? Am I right Lady Lucina?" Morgan said.

"What do you mean, Grandmaster Morgan?" Lucina asked surprised.

"I mean to punish those leaders that led to unacceptable defeats and deaths. That's what I mean!" Morgan said. He was unnaturally furious and his face turned red.

"Define 'leaders' Morgan." Mus said intrigued while the rest of them stood silent. Morgan the raised his fist in the air and said, "Ylisse's fall Khan Mus! Who was responsible for it? Who was also responsible for the village's burn? Who's responsible for the unfair death of those citizens? They burned to ashes! Women, children, and infants! All because of YOU, Lucina!" Morgan said angrily. "It's time for the council to know the truth!" Morgan continued, but Robin couldn't believe what he heard, nor could Lucina.

"Grandmaster Morgan you are being absurd! Your reaction is unjustified and unsuitable for your kind character. Why are you acting like this?" Tigris asked, confused by Morgan's actions.

"Am I Tigris? Or is she? She played us all! Why do you believe she survived? Why do you believe she failed every mission after her return from Ylisstol? She made a deal with the dark lord, that's how! Why can't you see it?"

"That's absurd!" Lucina cried and felt that she had to react after Morgan's slander towards her actions. Morgan though, didn't stop there.

"Is it Lucina? Tell this to my dead sister! My beautiful sister who burned in Ylisstol's fire, who gave her life so you can betray her to the dark lord! So you can leave her body to ache from the fire. So you can turn her to ASHES!" That last word. That word caused the whole room to become silent. The council saw the young man's face. Although, it looked bright red because of his shouting, they saw the pain inside of him. Under that hard shell of the fearless Grandmaster, they saw a brother mourning his sister's unfair and horrible death. Robin couldn't even bare to hear all these, much like everyone in the room. Meanwhile, Lucina lowered her head and closed her eyes.

"Lady Lucina… Are these true? Have you sworn to protect the dark lord?" Mus asked. Lucina broke her silence.

"No… They are not," she responded in a calm way, unlike the council's mood, which was everything but calm.

"How will you defend yourself Lady Lucina? Words aren't enough you know." Mus told her.

"I know Khan Mus. I demand a fair trial, tomorrow if possible," she said. Robin couldn't believe what he was hearing. The man who caused him headaches accused Lucina of been part of the Grimleal. That the village he woke up was her work. Could it be? "Of course not," he thought.

"Your request has been accepted. Darm it Lucina, Morgan is right. We gathered here after so much time to discuss our plans for tomorrow. But everyone's beloved little princess is now accused with strong cases for the worst crime ever committed. Seth! Accompany her to home. I want double guard for this night around the house. Also, double the perimeter, so nobody can escape or leave. Take her. The council is postponed until further notice." Mus said and sighed. Robin heard everyone mumbling about her. Seth approached them.

"I am sorry, milady. Orders are orders," Seth told her.

"I understand Seth. If I were you I would do the same thing. I have no fear because, truth always prevails," Lucina responded. Then a guard with Seth as a leader came and ushered both of them to their home.

When they arrived, Robin saw another part of the guard outside of the house. Fortunately enough, they let them get inside. The rest of the Shepherds were waiting them. The moment Lucina stepped in Cynthia rushed at her.

"Are you fine? Did they hurt you?" She asked worried.

"Don't worry Cynthia, I am fine. Robin never left my side." She replied calmly which eased Cynthia's spirit.

"So how did it go? As expected?" Inigo asked impatiently. Lucina nodded in the affirmative. A silent cheer from the team was heard causing Robin to get confused.

"What's going on guys? I'm the last to hear the good news, right?" Robin asked.

"See Robin, our plan was to get here for this exact reason!" Laurent informed him.

"What reason?"

Severa responded. "Do you think we're here to be safe? Come on! You're not that stupid. We're here because we want to. The convention was just a cover."

"Severa what are you implying?" Robin asked confused.

"I'm implying that we are here to get our key to defeat Grima!"

"And what key is that? Where is it?"

"First, the key is probably the last document my father made before he died. It's the map with the locations of the five gems of the "Shield of Seals". It's located in the convention center. We're here, considering the fact that now we know it's here! Someone told us," Lucina told him.

"Who is someone? And is Morgan on the trick, because his yelling seemed real?" "Who's Morgan?" Laurent asked to further add to the questions.

"Yes. About that… We also need to figure a plan to escape," Lucina said determined.

"So the trial the guards told us was real?" Owain asked surprised.

"Unfortunately, yes. See, there was this boy called Morgan, and he attacked me verbally because he believes I'm part of the Grimleal. Tomorrow, I will be put on trial for the council to be sure I'm not their enemy. It was the best I could do and I don't believe it's something to take on seriously. That's why there's a guard outside and that's why our job isn't as easy now."

"Lucina, are we sure we know in which place the map is in?" Robin asked trying to assess the situation and Lucina nodded back to confirm.

"Great! Because I have a plan!"

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 3: The Ark

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! The newest chapter is finally here. I hope you liked it! I'm sure it raised so many questions, but they will be answered next time. I will try to post the next part tomorrow, but I can't guarantee anything. I also want to mention that I try really hard to step up my writing skills for everyone to enjoy the series, so don't be too harsh on me, I try with everything I have. Also, in my free time I have checked and I will continue to check previous chapters for mistakes, in the grammar or the general flow of them.

Please don't mind any errors. No copyright intended.

Until next time, please have yourselves a good one :/

J.D. King

Chapter 10: Chapter 4: Shield of Seals

Shield of Seals

"So… Robin. Whatcha have in store for us?" Brady asked.

Robin then told the Shepherds to gather all together and said, "Before I continue, where is the map exactly?"

"Do you remember the painting we saw earlier? Right behind it, there must be a case. Our source told us it's there." Lucina replied.

"Our source?" He asked curiously.

"Many people died fighting Grima. There was one person from the original Shepherds that didn't. Her name is Tiki. She guides us through these dark times and told us to trust none other than those who prove their royalty. Also, she was the one to tell us how to defeat him. Our only way is to gather all five gemstones, before him. The gemstones and the shield of seals were one. Because of its tremendous power they were separated and spread across the lands in unknown places. The Exalt of Ylisse was responsible for them. They should never fall to hands of the enemy otherwise our future is doomed. This is why we must succeed. Now tell us what you have in mind, it's getting dark already," Lucina responded not wanting to waste anymore time.

"All right. My plan is to find the map and get out of here before they put you on trial," Robin said, causing confusion to his teammates.

"Why? If I run away they'll think I'm guilty. They already do."

"Exactly. Don't you see the outcome of the trial has already been decided? They will sentence you to death Lucina. Morgan obviously controls the council. They only listen and follow his orders."

"That's not true! He reacted like that because he lost his sister Robin. How would you react if you lost someone important?" She asked him.

He paused, slowly closed his eyes and sighed. He then raised his head and calmly responded: "Right now I have no one important. I don't know if my family is alive, or if I have a brother, a sister and friends… You are my family. I make every move aiming for as fewer casualties as possible. And if there is even the faintest chance of someone of you getting killed, I won't make that move. And honestly, I don't know. I don't want to. But getting the map is much more important now! And for the record, I don't trust Morgan. There's something about him that makes me feel weird."

"Is it because he looks like you?" Lucina asked.

"He doesn't look like me." Robin quickly protested back. " I'm not that short. Anyway… will you listen to my plan or not?"

"You mean the plan that says thirteen people, a Pegasus and a dragon leave a city possibly, one of the last safest on earth and the most well guarded one, unnoticed? Oh and that they get past the 20 guards outside. You mean that plan?" Laurent questioned him.

"Yeah! That's exactly what I'm saying," Robin replied calmly.

The sun had completed its tour for the day, and was now replaced by myriad stars that dotted the inky canopy. A low, gibbous moon hovered in the twilight firmament, giving a very dim light upon the land. It was like a dark curtain fell over the land, with twinkling spotlights adorning the velvet texture of the night. The guards' armors reflected the moon's light, while they kept an eye at the Shepherds' house. Suddenly, the door of the house opened and two people got out carefully. At once, the guards rushed at them and the sound of the metal hitting the ground echoed in the silent night.

"Halt! Where do you think you're going? We are ordered to not anyone leave the building!" The guard told them. The young man wore his usual deep dark armor and the guards could barely see him. The Pegasus knight on the other was more noticeable, because her breastplate was made from pure iron.

"Don't you know that our animals need to be fed? Minerva needs her usual meal and so does Sumia. And if they starve how do you expect them to do in the battlefield? They'll die! So do me a favor and let us feed them," Gerome responded annoyed. The guard took a step back and thought it over to see if was a trap or anything else suspicious. Although, Lucina and her team had a great reputation among the citizens of the town and when the rumors about her to be on tried

for treason, they couldn't believe it. Chrom died for peace. How would his daughter betray mankind at this stage?

Having these thoughts, the guard executed their request. He ordered five of his men to go with them to the stables, just in case anything suspicious happened. Although, the chances were slim. Meanwhile in the house, the others were planning their next move. Laurent got close to the front door and opened a book. Its cover was red and had a yellow flame painted on it. He quickly slipped through the pages and stopped when he found the passage he was looking for. "Ego sum Laurent. Ego praecipio ignis. Come ignis!" A bright red aura surrounded the book and Laurent's outline. His eyes turned from deep brown, as red as blood. The room's temperature went abruptly up, causing most of them to sweat from the heat. Suddenly, Laurent shouted for one more time: "Fire!" But nothing happened. His aura faded and everything returned to normal.

"How did it go Laurent?" Robin asked. Laurent, proud of himself, responded: "See for yourself!" Quickly he rushed at the closest window. The guards scattered from panic. Then, his eyes were light by the fire he saw just outside. The road in front of the house had caught fire. Citizens went out of their houses and the guards were dazed looking at the huge fire. Oddly enough, the fire didn't spread, but it was enough to cause a jam of people in the streets. It was the perfect chance to blend with the crowd and leave unnoticed. When Robin saw enough people outside he told his team: "This is our signal, let's go everyone. Severa, Owain, Lucina! You will go with me." And so the Shepherds one by one jumped out of the back window transferring the two suitcases with their clothes and spare blades. Robin nodded to Yarne to carry them and he gladly did. Robin then quickly counted his teammates, only to find one was missing.

"Where's Brady?" He asked around, but nobody knew where he went. "He was just with us!" He continued. Then a blonde haired man jumped out of the window holding a small to medium size case. "What?" He asked confused while the others glared back before moving on.

They were separated into two groups and discreetly walked along the crowd. Robin and his small team headed right at the convention centre while the other party went their separate ways.

"Did they see us? Did they call reinforcements?" Owain asked.

Severa turned her head around so she could see what was going on. Her teammates were gone and so did the guards from the house. They were busy handling the crowd. Screams of terror and people shouting were heard. At one point, the flames exploded! Unfortunately, this led to some houses to catch fire, including theirs. Soon, hordes of paladins and mages came and focused on putting it out. This didn't distract them from their cause, as it was under control.

Before long, they arrived at the building. It wasn't guarded at all and they silently got inside without be seen. Lucina then guided them through the corridors.

"Am I the only one that believes this is creepy? It's dead dark and the only light we have is this oil lamp. Not to mention that everywhere around us there are statues and paintings that make even more scary…" Owain said with a low tone.

"Nope. It was a lot creepier this morning," Robin said.

"So the others will follow the secret paths under the city? Are we sure they know were to find them?" Severa asked.

"Yes. I believe I told them as best as I could. Few people know their existence, as my father built them only for emergency situations. If this town were under attack, those secret lines would let the people escape and evacuate it safely. But we should focus on finding just the right painting," Lucina responded. The team quietly walked around, until they reached that specific corridor with the special portrait. Lucina immediately run at it.

"Wait! We need the lamp to see too!" Severa said. The team stood in front of it watching it.

"Father. Even without you in life, you still help us with every way possible. Robin! Hold the lamp for me, please," Lucina told him. With slow and delicate moves the young lord removed the painting from the wall, careful not to break ti or make too much noise. A small case was revealed behind it, and she took it with caution. The case had a rectangular shape and was around 20cm long with 5cm width. It was made from pure wood and had the brand of Exalt crafted on it. Lucina opened it and said, "It can't be! It's empty!"

"Well well… the criminals returned to the crime scene… Where did you hide it?" He shouted.

Robin recognized the man at once. It was none other than… "Morgan! I should have expected you here! You double-faced rat!" Robin shouted.

"Oh, please. You tricked everyone with your pathetic "fire trick", but it was so predictable... Now give me the map and I won't reveal your plan to the council."

"So you want the map huh? You'll never take it from us! But why do you want it?" Robin asked. Severa looked at Robin in a strange way and whispered: "What are you doing? We have nothing to give him." Robin looked at her too and winked. "Trust me," he told her.

"That's none of your business. Only remember that Lucina will be put on trial tomorrow if you don't give the damned map to me, now!" Morgan yelled.

"Not before you answer our questions. Even your presence here left me confused."

"Of course and you are Robin. How could I forget that you suffer from amnesia? That must baffle you, doesn't it? Who you really are, if you have family or not and which side you belong to? Man, you must have a lot of questions. But know this, you are an enemy to us. You burned the village down. I saw it with my own eyes," he told him. "I can answer every question about your origin, only if you give me the map."

Robin stood still and stared at him with the help of the lamps light. "So you knew Lucina had nothing to do with the village. That means you accused her unfairly on purpose. And that also means you are a terrible liar!" The tactician told him.

Morgan frowned, by hearing all these. "I asked for the map politely and you wouldn't give it to me. That's fine tactician. I'll get it myself!" The corridor lit from the fire that surrounded Morgan. It burned hot and the Shepherds drew their weapons.

"He's a sorcerer! Everyone watch out!" Severa shouted. Robin, showing no expression of fear, revealed him the case. "This is what you are looking for Morgan! Let us go and it's yours." He cried, but Morgan wouldn't listen as he threw a fireball at them. They dodged it, but Morgan drew closer with the same red eyes that they saw Laurent have earlier. He felt his head sweating and his heart beating fast. He looked at his friends and realized that they were just as scared. But he instead, tried to hide it.

Morgan silently, raised his hands and got closer to them. He was just 10m away and he made two spears of fire were with his magic. He grabbed the one and threw it at them. Thankfully, they had the skill to dodge it again, and the lance hit the ground and disappeared. "We must fight back! Robin, what should we do?" Owain asked. Robin was silent. Morgan then run at them and threw another fiery lance. This time though, it passed just as much next to Severa as it sliced her waist, but didn't hit her entirely. She screamed out of pain as her wound was bleeding and was hurting her from the burn. Robin, immediately after seeing it, ran at Morgan.

Owain saw his friend shouting Morgan's name from anger. He saw him cloaked by a green light. Robin's eyes were now bright green. He raised his hand and screamed: "Suscitabit nunc Forseti!" A powerful wind blew against Morgan. It strong enough that easily carried him away. The younger tactician hit the ground with so much power that it knocked him unconscious for good. Robin then rushed at Severa to see that Owain and Lucina were taking care of her. She was sitting on the ground and they were pressing the wound to stop her from bleeding out any further.

"How are you feeling?" Robin asked concerned.

The red haired lady responded annoyed: "You and your stupid ideas... I'll survive, don't worry. I've been through worse."

"Robin! What you did was amazing! We should rename you from "Rob-Rob" to "Hurricane Robin"," Owain told him with an ironic tone.

"You still are calling me "Rob-Rob?" The swordsman asked ironically making his friends smile.

"But Robin! The case was empty! Who took the map?" Lucina asked troubled.

"I'm sure I have an answer to that." The man said and got close to Chrom's portrait. He raised and hit it against the wall several times. Its frame turned into pieces. He then took the painting and delivered it to Lucina.

"Check to see if it's back," Robin told her.

She took the painting with caution and saw it. "That's the map to the five gemstones of the Binding Shield! That means that the case was just a distraction!"

"Exactly! A distraction from the real map!" Owain said enthusiastically.

"How did you know?" She asked him curiously. The tactician then responded: "It was just a hunch."

"You are full of surprises Robin. First the plan, then Morgan, then this…" Severa murmured lowly.

"Hey! It will be better for you to stay silent. You need to keep your strength until we take care of you." Robin suggested with a calm tone.

"We better get going. Gerome and Cynthia must wait for us in the roof," Lucina said in a hurry.

"That's right! Our air transport is here! What a great idea Rob!" Owain told him. Robin then paused and responded ironically: "Great indeed. You know how much I love flying."

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 4: Shield Of Seals

A/N (Authors Note): Hello again everybody! These past two days I felt the need to write. So I turned all the inspiration I had into this chapter. I hope you liked it! In the next one we will answer some question that were raised in this chapter. Unfortunately the next one will mostly likely be uploaded at 12th of June... Stay tuned :)

Clarifications:

[1]: (Latin)

- Ego sum Laurent. Ego praecipio ignis. Come ignis! = I am Laurent. I command fire. Come fire!

- Suscitabit nunc Forseti! = Raise now fire!

As always thank you for your positive comments so far! It should be mentioned that these *positive reviews* make me so happy that I want to write as best as I can, for as much as I can. Thank you :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one! :D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 11: Chapter 4: Shield Of Seals (II)

Shield of Seals (II)

"Huh? Since when did you despise flying?" Owain asked him. His words made Robin feel uncomfortable, but he knew that avoiding the answer would get him nowhere. He took a deep breath and said: "Cynthia and Gerome might be already at the roof. We have to get there as soon as possible. But, along the way, I could tell you." Owain nodded. Then he moved quickly and with the help of Robin got Severa back on her feet. She could stand on her own, but Robin understood she was still in pain, because of her facial expression. She had closed, frowned eyes and held tight her waist at her wound, but she was silent. Although she was aching, she tried everything not to show it. But of course our tactician saw it. It was because he reacted the same way after the Shepherds found him in the village. The way of walking, the body language, every move she made reminded Robin of him. He, on the other, acted in this manner because he was recovering from a deadly wound. Severa, though, wasn't.

"I'll guide us to the roof. Don't worry everyone." Lucina told them. "T-This way!" She said and pointed the path they should take. Owain then asked again: "The map?"

"It's in the case," Lucina told him. "Great! Let's get going already," Robin said. He tried to take Severa's arm and help her walk, but…

"What do you believe you're doing? I said I'm fine! Now take your hands off me!" Robin found himself being pushed aside. She then got close to Lucina. The team continued their way to the roof. The princess guided them through the corridors and the stairs. In the meanwhile, Owain and Robin continued their previous chat about flying.

"It's not exactly that I hate flying. It's just I feel weird when I'm so high from the ground. It gives me the creeps."

"And it has nothing to do with the way you were brought to us? I mean you, bleeding, were carried over by a Pegasus to our base, when you couldn't even remember your own name. For me that would be a scary experience. Or is it Cynthia's fault?"

"No no. She was fine. Well, now that I think of it, the ride was quite bumpy." Much to Robin's surprise Severa broke her silence.

"This has to do with the wind's speed and the adaptability of the rider under those conditions. Cynthia isn't a pro."

"And you are a pro?" Owain sarcastically asked. "Oh! Shut up Owain!" She said. Things started to get out of hand, but sudden sounds made them set their differences apart and solely focus on escaping.

"Ssshh! Footsteps! They know we're here!" Lucina whispered. "Quick! Let's get out of here!" She continued. The team did as she said. Finally, after carefully walking, they reached the final stairs to the roof. Unfortunately, they were leading nowhere, but from a door at the ceiling. Owain tried to open it, but with no luck.

"Damn it! It's locked!"

"What should we do now? Smash it? They will understand we're here!" Lucina said.

"Don't they already know that? I mean they are looking for us," Robin responded.

"Yes. But don't you see that if they know we didn't only try to escape, they'll start looking for the legendary jewels too! They can't interfere with our plans!" Lucina explained.

"Don't they already know that too? It's certain that Morgan told them. Who told Morgan is the *real* question. And who is he working for?"

Those weren't the *real* questions for Robin. Morgan knew about his past. He had told him he was a bad person and that he was the reason for the burned village. Who was Morgan? How did he know about his past? Who was "us" that Morgan referred to? All these baffled Robin's mind constantly after their meeting.

"Nothing of these will ever matter if we don't get out of here! So stand back everyone! *Dragon's Punch*!" Owain yelled and hit the door with his bare hand. Although it didn't break, it cracked. He then took his sword out and delivered the final blow to the door. It turned into two pieces and everyone got on the roof. It was just a plain floor with no fence, no furniture and no walls. The view was astonishing, by the way. Or it would be if they could see something different from the fire and masses of people at the streets. On the other, they were glad to meet Gerome and Cynthia. With the former having his

wyvern Minerva and the latter her Pegasus Sumia on their side.

"Gerome! Cynthia! I'm glad you're alright!" Lucina said and rushed at them.

"Lucina! We have no time. Do you have it?" Gerome asked. Lucina nodded. "Then let's leave already. The others are already out of the town," he continued.

"Yeah! They made it!" Cynthia said with a cheer.

"And how did the two of you made it *here*?" Robin asked. The riders weren't very reluctant to relate the whole story and told them to get onboard as soon as possible. And the team did, with three people on each animal. Soon, from the cracked roof door, the sounds started to get louder, but it didn't matter because they had already taken off. This time Robin wasn't afraid, because he was on Minerva's back. Being on a wyvern is a whole different experience than on a Pegasus. Much steadier and faster. Behind him was Owain. The two animals sored through the magnificent night sky. They used darkness to camouflage themselves from archers or other riders. This plan proved successful as they safely got past the town's walls and headed to their friends.

The Shepherds were reunited outside of town and unfortunately were still on run. They knew there were guards looking for them and so they had to pick their next move fast. Following Laurent's advice the team decided to head to Tiki. The manakete resided at the Mount Prism, a magical place where darkness couldn't enter. Moreover, Tiki was thought to be at the Valm's Mila Tree sleeping, so the Mount Prism wasn't at all guarded by Grima's forces. The Shepherds always had to be a step ahead of the enemy. Their troubles for the night had ended after they understood that the Ark's forces stopped searching for them, at least for the night. Then the team decided to camp right where it was. Brady and Inigo brought the rocks and created a circle to put the branches Yarne and Nah had found and Laurent helped setting up the fire with his tome. Having the fire ready, they quickly built small tents and took care of those that were injured.

The Shepherds formed a circle around the campfire and related their own stories about their escape. Most of them were identical; enter the secret passage and get out of the town without anyone noticing. After a while, Lucina told them what happened to them, as well as the incident with Morgan and the map. The team had a rough time and everyone really enjoyed themselves, except from one person. Robin understood her absence and discreetly got up and tried to find her. She could only be in one place, her tent. Unfortunately for him, as it proved, she was inside, lying on a sheet on the ground with a red candle next to her.

"Hey! Why are you here alone? You should join us," he told her.

"I'm fine. I only need to rest. It was a rough night of everyone, after all. And don't worry if you miss any of their "epic" stories. I am sure we'll have to hear them everyday from now on," she replied making him giggle.

"Severa, I must apologize for earlier. It was my mistake that got you wounded and I'm sorry."

"Of course and it was your mistake! But I really don't want to talk about it. So would you mind getting out of my tent?"

"In fact yes, I do mind. I came here to apologize and you just throw me out? I can't accept that!"

"I don't see how that's my problem Robin. Good night and please don't forget to snuff out the candle before you leave."

"Damn it Severa. What is wrong with you? I came here to talk not fight with you! I'll leave only if you *honestly* want me to leave. So do you or not?"

She paused for a second. At that moment, their eyes met. Robin felt something weird and couldn't explain his emotions. She had found every possible way of making him want to get out of there and never talk to her again. But he didn't want to do anything close to that. Then Severa murmured with her soft voice something he never expected to hear: "I don't…" Robin got closer and found a cozy spot next to her. "So... How did you end up here?" He asked.

"Did you forgot that I'm a mercenary? Lucina pays me to fight alongside her. When all these are over, I'll leave the team with huge sacks of gold."

"So your dream is to make money? Ha! I don't believe you. You're better than this."

"And how do you know Robin? Is it one more of those mysterious hunches you keep getting? " She said and turned in front of him. Robin stared at her with calm and patience.

"Maybe yes or maybe not…" he responded.

"You're right. I have a different dream, but it's a bit more ridiculous."

"I'm all ears. You have nothing to fear."

"You know that mercenaries can be hired from almost every place in the world. So by becoming one, I would explore the world and travel to unknown lands and places. But it's stupid right?"

"Not at all! I honestly, find it very interesting. And the name "Hurricane Severa" came from one of those mercenary jobs you had?"

"I beg your pardon? Which name again?" She shouted this time and caught Robin off guard.

"Uhm… The "Hurricane Severa"? Is it such a big deal?"

"Of course and it IS! Now... GET the hell out of my tent. Chat's over."

"What? Are you for real?"

"Robin! I told you to get the hell out of my tent." This was all he needed to hear. Their moment lasted for a couple of minutes. Why was it so important with the nickname anyway and made Severa yell at him like that? Obviously irritated, he left the tent without looking back and got to the Shepherds' campfire. He took his seat next to Owain. Owain leaned his head towards him and whispered: "You mentioned her nickname right?"

"Yup… That's exactly what I did," He responded.

"Everybody listened her shouting. But please answer me this: Is there anything between you two?"

"Ha! A nice and straightforward question, but the answer is simple…"

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 4: Shield Of Seals

A/N(Author's Note): Hey guys! It's been forever! There are a lot of excuses for not making this chapter on time, but truth is that nobody can control life. and neither do I. Fortunately enough, I'm finally done with my other activities and I will solely write, because it makes me feel good :)

Anyway... I made this one very late at night and it might be full of errors... Don't tell them any error you find because I will check it when I wake up! And possibly the next one (because this one was short) will be posted tomorrow so stay tuned!

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one! :D

J.D. King

Chapter 12: Chapter 5: Azure

Azure

He left the tent without looking back and got to the Shepherds' campfire. He took his seat next to Owain. Owain leaned his head towards him and whispered: "You mentioned her nickname huh?"

"Yup… That's exactly what I did," He responded.

"Everybody heard her shouting. But please answer me this: Is there anything between you two?"

"Ha! A nice and straightforward question, but the answer is simple: No Owain," Robin responded with confidence, but he soon felt embarrassed when he saw the others staring at him with their bulging eyes. Owain then sighed and told the others: "Darn it! I lost this one! Here's your money everyone!" He got a small moneybag out of his pocket and gave it to Inigo. Then everything went back to normal, with them chatting again.

"Thank you Owain. Better luck next time! Who else said "yes"?" Inigo asked, proud of himself. Robin couldn't believe his eyes.

"Whoa, whoa! What in the world is happening? Did you make a bet out of me, again?" He asked.

"Dude! Chill. Everything ya see is basically a bet. From how much food we'll bring to if you have the hots for Severa. But be careful, coz this is still debatable, so Inigo give our Ow his money back," Brady explained. Inigo followed his words. "This isn't over Owain! I'll win!" Inigo told him.

"What! This is infuriating! How could you bet on something like this? I get it for a one on one in training, but guys… What I do in my personal life has nothing to do with you, ok? May I have some privacy?" His words made them feel sorry. They stared and nodded at each other.

"Robin is right. I've also told you countless times that this isn't fun nor will it ever be. I apologise on my cousin's behalf," Lucina told him. Owain, Inigo and Brady then apologized, but Robin got up and left. He decided to go for a walk, leaving everything behind.

Under the moonlight and the shimmering stars, he continued his walk. He was still troubled about Morgan. And the more he tried to find an answer the more he couldn't. After a while he stopped and looked above. Gazed at the infinite universe that expanded before his very eyes.

"Beautiful isn't it? I believe this is the only beautiful thing left to this world. It's something the dark lord will never take from us. It's the fading light of hope that keeps me going." Robin heard the female voice and recognised it immediately.

"What are you doing here, Nah?" He asked, surprised, and saw the green haired girl holding a red candle.

"Nothing. I mean I'm here for two reasons. First is to give you this candle to ensure that you'll get back to us and the second is to tell you that Lucina needs to see you in her tent. Nothing too important."

"Great. I'll be there in a minute," he said.

"So, what are you doing here exactly? You left without saying a word."

"Let's say that I have a lot on my mind right now."

"You know you can always trust me. You helped me the other day and I would gladly do the same."

"Look Nah. I really don't want to bother you with my problems, so I'm fine."

"Mm-hmmm! So it's about Morgan? Go figure!"

"What? How do you kn-… Anyway… it's pointless… " He said and lowered his head. "It feels like a great burden; not being able to know who you really are. Was I a good person? Was I a bad? And then there goes this guy who tells me that I burned down the village that you found me in. That I'm one of them," he continued, rubbing his eyes with his fingertips.

"Robin. I'm sure that in your past life you were a great person. Just look at all the good things you've already done in this

week; you've proven to be trustworthy, beat a Risen yourself, saved Lucina from an unfair trial, helped us escape from a well-guarded town with the map to defeat the dark lord and saved Severa and the others from death with your unbelievable powers! You are a *good* person and never let anything Morgan says to you make you think otherwise."

"Do you think so?"

"I know so." She told him and stared at the tactician's deep brown eyes. Robin felt that weird feeling again, but let his thoughts aside, because he didn't want to ruin this moment too, by overthinking it.

"Robin?" "Yes Nah?" He responded quickly. "I also had a third reason to come here. I heard the rumor about you and Severa, as well. I-Is this true?" She reluctantly asked.

"Yikes Nah. Just because I visited her tent, it doesn't mean that I'm in love with her."

"Great! I'm glad to hear that."

"Excuse me?"

"I m-mean, I'm glad b-because… I've bet against it. That's it! I've bet against it! Heh."

"Then I'm glad that I too made you happy," Robin said and decided to head back. They needed rest in order to be ready for tomorrow's journey. When they got back the fire shone bright. Nah then thanked him for the walk and went back to her tent. Robin gave her a faint smile and made his way to Lucina's tent. He stood outside and waited.

"Lucina! May I come in?" He asked. "Yes," he heard and got inside. It was just like Severa's and probably everyone else's tent; the wooden pillars were a little taller than himself and multiple candles were lit to see. Lucina was lying cross-legged on the sheet.

"Come! Don't worry I don't bite," she told him.

"Well we'll see about that!" He said and she actually giggled. Robin took a seat next to her.

"You wanted to see me?" He asked. Lucina nodded and gave him the wooden case that bared the crafted Brand of the Exalt. Robin opened it with caution and saw the map inside it. "It's about this right?"

"Yes but before we continue, I wanted to ask you something. I would like you to work for me as our team's tactician. Your extraordinary skills in planning and predicting our opponents' moves have proven to be extremely useful. So what do you say?"

"Uhm… Wasn't this Laurent's job?"

"No. Did he say it was?"

"Nope, it was just that he made all the planning, until now."

"Maybe, but your skills are way beyond his. Even your magic! That wind magic you used against Morgan was so powerful; I've never seen anything like it! So what do you say?"

"I would gladly accept, but I have to be honest here. That move against Morgan was pure instinct. I can't remember what I was thinking at that time and it might have something to do with my past."

"It seems to me that you could have been an experienced tactician. Think about your over the top way of thinking, your great tactics and your tome ability. You were definitely a tactician."

"And how do you know it?"

"Because my father's tactician behaved like this. I may have little to no memory of him, but I will never forget the way my father talked about him. He was his greatest friend and his greatest companion, alongside our mother, of course."

"I will try to live up to his name. I can ensure you of that. So let's take a look at this map."

He took the map out of the case and spread it on the ground. On its front side there was still Chrom's portrait, but it didn't matter. Its backside though had a golden like colour. Also the continent of Ylisse, Plegia, Regna Ferox and Valm were drawn on it with black ink. The lines were thin and it had extreme detail. There were roads designed here and there and also little crosses in some places. The towns or important places like a capital or a mountain were shown with a small circle with their respective name next to them.

"This must be it! The places of the legendary jewels are marked and also apparently there are some notes concerning them. Where are we though?" Lucina at once pointed with her finger at their exact position.

"Here!" She said. "And Lady Tiki is residing at the Mount Prism [1], which is here," she continued.

"Ok I know this may sound a bit of a suicide but how about getting to Tiki, while also getting the stones that are close to our path first? We could use the notes to help us get them. I can already see… two crosses in our road. So when we arrive at her domain, we would have two of them."

"I agree. See? That's why you would make a fine tactician. Which one is closer?"

"The map says Azure and the note says…"

"This sounds weird, is it like a riddle?"

"Whatever it is it, I think it will be fun,"

The sun has rose and its warm rays warmed Robin's body. He slowly opened his eyes, yawned and stretched his body. Then he got up, put his boots and his robe on and went outside. He greeted his friends, as they were already preparing to leave. Laurent walked past him and gave him an angry look. Robin didn't pay the look any attention and instead went straight to talk with him.

"Good morning Laurent. Do we have anything for breakfast today?"

"No. We didn't collect any food, but my guess is that we will today. By the way, for the record, your attack on Morgan required "Weapon Proficiency Rank A". Even I don't have that much! It is remarkable that you have shown such excellent signs of brutal force."

"What? Oh! I remember… It's your list about categorizing our strengths and weaknesses in battle. Good job on that! And I beat Morgan by relying on my instinct; it felt like someone else was controlling me, like I lost myself. So don't give it too much attention."

"Whatever you say Robin," Laurent left with a clear smirk on his face. Immediately after their chat Kjelle approached him. Her shiny armor made it difficult for him to see her. Eventually she reached him.

"Good morning tactician. Lucina told us we're leaving, but she didn't mention Tiki. I believe you will know our true destination," she said.

"Yes, I do. We're heading to Tiki, but let's say that we'll make some stops along the way."

"Meaning?"

"Meaning that the map has revealed the closest jewel to us right now and we're going to get it. It's Azure."

"And what about the riddle in the note next to it? I wasn't able to figure it out. What does it mean?"

"It means that we'll have to be careful of what we see in there. But more on that later. I should better prepare my stuff too. I'll catch up with you later," Robin told her and did as he had said. He packed the sheet and the tent, then left to meet the others. A while later, everyone had prepared for their next big mission; to find the first sacred stone and make the second step in defeating the dark lord. Before they started, they gathered all together and Lucina explained the situation: "Our target is to get there, take the jewel and leave. It's very simple. We are mostly looking for a temple, probably likely built by rock. Now Robin will tell you the note that was next to the location of the temple."

Robin then took the word. "Alright fellas. The notes are written in this form to probably protect the jewels from thieves. Most thieves nowadays or in the past were illiterate, so they would have no idea with how to read this to get to the jewel. And even if they did know, they wouldn't understand it, because it's written like a riddle. I will tell it to you and then I'll express my opinions about it and how it will help us: "You have no control over me. I am not real, though sometimes you believe in me. I can make you happy. I can make you cry. I'm clear as a day, but yet you can't see me with your eye."

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! How is everyone being? I am not quite sure if everyone is reading these A/N 's, but I'm fine. I saw the magnificent 40 follower support and I'm so happy. We've come a lot way and I would like to thank everyone for his contribution. I'm thankful that you like the story so far and for your positive comments. I also want Antex for his help in editing this chapter.

-So have YOU solved the riddle? ;) It's a bit harder than it looks like. You can always follow to get alerted when the newest chapters are coming :)

-Clarification:

[1]: I mistakenly wrote the Tiki's place as Origin Peak in the previous chapter. She is at Mountain Prism. I apologise if it caused any inconvenience.

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended.

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;)

J.D. King

Chapter 13: Chapter 5: Azure (II)

Azure (II)

Lucina explained the situation: "Our target is to get there, take the jewel and leave. It's very simple. We are mostly looking for a temple, probably likely built by rock. Now Robin will tell you the note that was next to the location of the temple."

Robin then took the word. "Alright fellas. The notes are written in this form probably to protect the jewels from thieves. Most thieves nowadays or in the past were illiterate, so they would have no idea with how to read this to get to the jewel. And even if they did know, they wouldn't understand it, because it's written like a riddle. I will tell it to you and then I'll express my opinions about it and how it will help us: "You have no control over me. I am not real, though sometimes you believe in me. I can make you happy. I can make you cry. I'm clear as a day, but yet you can't see me with your eye. So any suggestions everyone?" Robin asked the Shepherds. The members were thinking. "Any suggestions?" Robin asked for a second time. This time he got an answer.

"Yes Nah!" He said. The young manakete responded: "How about an illusion? I believe it fits the description." The rest of the team started to nod at each other and Robin did too, but he wasn't convinced. "Great Nah! Your answer is really close! Congratulations!"

"But why? Is there something more?" She asked. "I had something different in my mind. I'll explain right now. I believe the answer is "a dream." Think about it. Think about it, everyone. The riddle says: "You have no control over me." We can't decide in advance about what we dream. Then the "I am not real, but sometimes you believe in me" refers to those who believe that their dreams can foresee the future, although dreams aren't real, they're in our imagination. And let's not forget that it also says "I can make you happy. I can make you cry." We might dream about something that will make us happy, but we might also see something that will sadden us. And last but not least, the final part of the riddle: "I'm clear as a day, but yet you can't see me with your eye," means that we can't understand when we're dreaming as everything seems so real and that we can't experience a dream with our eyes open, thus we need to have both eyes closed to experience it." When Robin finished he heard applause from his friends. He bowed and thanked them.

Having solved the riddle the Shepherds began their journey to find their first stone. The journey was a long one and the team coped under rough circumstances. But why wouldn't they? They were fighters. They were heroes, even if they didn't know it; they were humanity's last hope. And so they continued moving forward, getting closer and closer to their destination day by day. In the meanwhile, Robin understood why he was called "lucky" back in their base. How could he have understood it, if he never experienced it? There were days that they starved and moved earth and heaven to find even a piece of fruit. And when they did they were indeed lucky. Grima didn't only devour every form of human life, with unfriendly intentions, but also destroyed and even incinerated other forms of life like trees, bushes, flowers and wildlife. But those experiences made them stronger. Every hit they took, made them bond tighter as a team. Shepherds now saw Robin as if he was with them years, although he was for at least a month. Despite their hunger, thirst and non-stop walking, which at some points seemed endless, the worst part was something else. Owain described it as the "never ending fear of death." Each day they woke up with the feeling that this day might be the last and that feared them. Nobody could know if they were going to be attacked from Risen or if they were to walk into an ambush from the remaining Plegians or even their previous ally, the Ark.

Undeniably, the circumstances were pushing them to their limits, but Robin found time to get to know his new friends better. He trained with Kjelle, Severa, Lucina and the others, was part of the resources searching team with Yarne, Laurent, Owain and would come up with a solution to almost every problem that occurred. He was indispensable to the Shepherds.

After a month of travelling, having closely followed the map orders, they reached the place where the first stone of the binding shield was held, Azure. They were in the middle of a dead forest, consisted from nothing but leafless trees and muddy ground. The weather was sunny and cool.

"We're here. We did it everyone!" Lucina said relieved. "It is exactly as the map shows, a temple made of stone," she continued. And it was indeed. A strange looking entrance made purely from rock lied in front of their eyes, in the middle of nowhere. It was surrounded by large trees, which made it invisible to see from a far distance. But of course the map provided them with a solution to this problem, a pond that was located ten meter away from it. And the team rushed at it, not to the entrance but to the pond. It was days since they passed by a river or a lake and their water supplies had dried out just the day before. Nothing could be compared with the sweetness of the water refreshing their mouths, necks and stomachs. Feeling better the Shepherds approached the weird looking entrance and stared at it. The entrance was made from two huge pillars, which were consisted by dozens of rocks one on top of the other. Behind each one of them

walls of great length extended until they formed a circle by meeting one another. The branches of the trees that grew alongside them expanded and wrapped them. [1] The two pillars connected on their top with a rectangular shaped rock, which was sculpted on its front side. From what they could make out it depicted a battle scene, but had on of the soldiers holding a sphere.

"That's the Azure!" Inigo said.

"Guys! Mind your step and every move you make. We should be very careful from now on!" Robin warned and everybody agreed.

The entrance wasn't directly leading to the temple, though. It led to a long rocky road, which had walls from each side and an open roof and was the one that connected to the temple. Before the Shepherds continue they decided who would enter.

"I believe it is Lucina's duty and Robin's to enter because they were the ones that planned our journey and know every detail of the map," Laurent said causing the other members of the Shepherds to agree. Lucina was at first hesitant to enter, because she was unaware of what surprises the temple held for them. But after seeing everyone cheering for her she remembered that it was her duty to protect her friends. She then saw Robin nodding at her and drawing strength from those feelings she decided to enter. Robin took a small tree branch from the ground in case they needed a torch and a small bag, which held his tomes and to keep the sphere. Just before they entered Robin turned against them and said: "It is noon, everyone. If we haven't got back after you've turned the hourglass 10 times [2] then search for us. If you spot an enemy approaching then send someone warn us immediately. If we lose this chance then the world is doomed," he said and left them behind.

They cautiously passed the entrance and entered the narrow road. In a couple of minutes they reached its end. Lucina and Robin stood in front of the temple. They saw the walls extend and surround it. Much to their surprise the temple seemed like a short (one story) building, but with a great length, which they were just to find out. Robin immediately used his fire tome to turn his tree branch into a fiery torch. The temple was made from the same rocks as the road, the walls and the entrance. It lacked a door and Robin saw the darkness coming from inside it. He gulped and entered. Lucina, who was behind him, instinctively grabbed him by the hand and followed him. Robin, who with his right arm held the torch and with his left Lucina's hand, stepped into the darkness of the temple. Immediately, after entering he spotted two pillars, each next to the entrance, which had a silver bowl on their top and could be used for lighting the room. And that's exactly what he did. By the time, he got his torch close the bowl on top of the first pillar it caught a small fire inside it. Then instantly a fiery line, beginning from the pillar, expanded through the walls. He did the same to the other, the two lines of fire met and the entrance room was finally lightened. Robin looked around. The room had a square shape and the floor, which appeared to be made from marble, had letters on it creating a text that was made from small mosaic pieces. Unfortunately, for them there were three doors, one on each side of the room. They decided to read the text on the ground.

"It appears the text is written in an archaic version of ours. Let me try reading it," Lucina said.

He nodded and she tried to read the text. She rapidly turned at Robin. He saw that she was shocked by what she had just read.

"This… P-Place! It says it's cursed!"

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 5: Azure

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! First and foremost, I know this chapter is short. I was between either uploading it this way or not. I guess a short chapter is better than none :P But don't worry the next one will surely be uploaded by tomorrow and be a lot larger :) Again, I've uploaded it when it's dead midnight for me, so please bare some small mistakes, until I correct them when I
get up tomorrow :) In the next chapter we'll see how the riddle connects to the Azure sphere and what secrets lie within the temple. Thank you for your support so far. You can always show your appreciation through a favourite and get alerted about when the newest chapters are coming through a follow :D

[Update]: Due to some schedule conflicts, Azure Chapter (III) will be uploaded tomorrow, instead of today. "Please Understand" :P

Clarifications:

[1]: The shape of the temple was like this, in case the description confused you: ==O. The = are the two pillars with the walls behind them and the O is the where the temple is, inside the walls.

[2]: 1 turn for their hourglass was equal to 10-5 minutes.

[3]: There is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing in the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear.

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended.

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;)

J.D. King

Chapter 14: Chapter 5: Azure (III)

Azure (III)

He gulped and entered. Lucina, who was behind him, instinctively grabbed him by the hand and followed him. Robin, who with his right arm held the torch and with his left Lucina's hand, stepped into the darkness of the temple. Immediately, after entering he spotted two pillars, each next to the entrance, which had a silver bowl on their top and could be used for lighting the room. And that's exactly what he did. By the time he got his torch close the bowl on top of the first pillar, it caught a small fire inside it. Then instantly a fiery line, beginning from the pillar, expanded through the walls. He did the same to the other, the two lines of fire met and the entrance room was finally lightened. Robin looked around. The room had a square shape and the floor, which appeared to be made from marble, had letters on it creating a text that was made from small mosaic pieces. Unfortunately, for them there were three doors, one on each side of the room. They decided to read the text on the ground.

"It appears the text is written in an archaic version of our language. Let me try reading it," Lucina said.

He nodded and she tried to read the text. She rapidly turned at Robin. He saw that she was shocked by what she had just read.

"This… P-Place! It says it's cursed!"

"Lucina! Relax. There are no things such as curses. There is always a logical explanation behind everything. But just for fun, what is the curse?"

"I-It says that we'll stop living in this world."

"That doesn't make any sense… Anyway, we should choose a door. Does it say anything about which door we should take?"

"Nope nothing. Only that intruders will be punished by the curse. Robin this is serious," Lucina said. Robin then caught her by her shoulders and looked straight at her eyes.

"Take a deep breath. Great. Now breath out. We are not intruders. We are the ones that want to save this world, not use the sphere for our selfish reasons. That's why we are destined to succeed."

"But I thought you said you don't believe in fate?"

"I don't. I believe that when a person truly wants something, the universe conspires to make it happen. I *want* to help you and I want to find the sphere. So in a quick guess, I say the left one!" Lucina nodded and they went for the left door. It was a simple wooden door. Robin spread his hand to the doorknob, but in a blink of an eye, it vanished along with the door. Robin shook his head in amazement. As he stood there he his heart raced, like a runaway train, going faster and faster.

"Robin! W-What was that?" Lucina could barely speak from fear.

"I h-have no idea," Robin said and gulped. "M-Maybe a sign that this wasn't the correct door. Yes! That's exactly what! Let's check the right one!" He continued and they walked their way to the other side of the room. The fire's light was strong. But also when Lucina tried to grab the doorknob, the door vanished in front of their eyes.

"Noo! Not again! Robin! Should we ask for help?" Lucina asked. As they turned their heads to the exit, they realized that it had disappeared too. The room was empty, with only one final door remaining. With no way to leave the temple, they went to open the last door. When Robin stood in front of it, he reached to slightly touch the handle. His hand was shaking and his breath had quickened. Finally his index finger touched it. He turned to Lucina and relieved said: "It's the real one!"

"Then what are we waiting for?" Lucina said excited and opened the door. They quickly went inside it. At once, Robin used his torch to search for the next two pillars to light. He found them and the second room was flood by light, but when they could finally see there was a man standing in front of them. He looked like a shadow, as he was hooded and wore a long dark robe that covered his hands and feet. The man whispered: "Lucina…" The mysterious figure sent the chills down Robin's spine. He inhaled deeply and took his tome out of the bag. Lucina, on the other, was immobilized. Robin looked at her. He saw the cold sweat running down her cheeks and the expression of her eyes. Undeniably, she looked afraid, but there was something in that look. Determination. Robin drew strength from it and bravely shouted: "Who are you?" But there was no answer.

"I asked who are you?" He shouted for a second time. Then, the shadow started to become larger and larger. It turned

into a mist that expanded through the room. Soon, it had covered most of it. Darkness had fallen, covering the light and it headed right towards the two. Robin, as he stood behind the door, felt the doorknob in his back. "Should we run?" He thought. He looked again at Lucina. Her expression hadn't changed. Lucina without holding back quickly unsheathed and raised her Falchion.

"I am Lucina, daughter of King Chrom and Queen Sumia, wielder of the Falchion. Now! *Be gone*!" She shouted. Instantly, the shadow disappeared and light filled the room again. Exactly opposite of them, there was the next door. They walked down the marble floor and headed at it.

The two had reached the third room. Robin used his torch again to light it and succeeded. This time there was nothing in the room apart from a small pillar with the sacred sphere on it. It shined beautifully as the light of the fire hit it. The legendary stone was small enough to fit in the palm of his hand.

"It's gorgeous! The Azure..." Robin said and got closer to it. He stood towards it, and only looked, like he was enchanted. "I can't remember if I've seen anything like that before. It has this bright blue colour like the seven seas or… Or the skyline!" He said excited. "In fact it reminds me of… Your eyes…" He continued. He heard no response and quickly turned his head around to find her. She was gone.

"No! Lucina! Where are you?" He shouted with all his strength, until his throat started to ache. Everything was so silent and he could only listen to himself breathing insanely fast and his heart beating like crazy. Then he ran at the sphere and tried to grab it. Unfortunately, his hand passed through it and the sphere vanished.

"No! No! No!" He screamed. Suddenly, he saw the same figure as in the previous room. The hooded man got closer to him. He took the hood off, revealing his white hair and face.

"Morgan! Impossible!" Robin said. Morgan walked towards him and opened his mouth. Shadows started got out from it and slowly filled the room. Morgan got closer and closer to him.

"Your princess is dead, tactician. I killed her. I wish you could be there to she her screaming your name, helplessly calling for you. Where were you Robin? Why are you so *mean*?"

"LIAR! Go away! B-Be gone!" Robin said, but heard nothing other than his laugh. He tried to find the door, or a way to escape the room, but he couldn't see anything, but darkness. Finally, he was consumed by the dark.

"You… You are pure evil, Robin. You just don't see it yet. And soon you'll follow her in death, fulfilling your purpose of existence." He heard in the shadows. He tried to run, but he couldn't, as he felt his legs stuck on the ground. He tried to move his arms, but he couldn't, as he felt them heavy and he was unable to raise them. Soon, he couldn't breath. He closed his eyes and surrendered.

"This can't be happening… I must be… dreaming! Of course, That's it! No… No… I can't be. I must be seeing... illusions! The answer *was illusions*! We can't control illusions, because there are figments of our imagination. They aren't real, but I just believed in them. They can show something happy like the beautiful sphere, but they can also show something sad like the shadows devouring me. They were clear as the day, but I didn't see them with my real eyes. I saw them with the eyes of my own imagination. Everything is in my head! I lived in the world that my mind created, not the real one. That's the curse! Darn it! Nah was right..." Robin thought and immediately opened his eyes.

He found himself lying on the floor of the third room. In front of him saw the sphere on the small pillar and Lucina lying next to him. She had her eyes open wide, was shaking her head and silently murmured: "Robin... Robin… Help… I need you…" He realized her conscious was lost in her illusions, just like his had. "Thank goodness! You're safe," he said. He sighed in relief. He approached her and tried to wake her up. He held her hands and whispered in her ear: "I'm already there Lucina. I promised I'd always be. Find me. I'm already there," the tactician said. Soon she stopped shaking and closed her eyes. Then she slowly opened them again. She had truly awoken. She saw him smiling at her and instinctively hugged him tight. Robin felt that weird feeling again. This time though, it was stronger than ever. He felt a warm aura embracing his body and soul and that he didn't want her to stop, because he felt alive. Lucina tried to pull herself apart, but decided against it and hugged him tighter. Robin whispered again: " Shhh… I'm already there. Don't worry, I saw the illusions too. I was also afraid, but I had one thought to keep me strong," he said and touched her right cheek. "You," he continued. Lucina's cheeks had become as red as summer ripe peaches.

"Robin…" She said and he saw her moist eyes. He let her head touch gently his shoulder, stroke her dark blue hair and kissed her at her scarlet cheek.

"I'm here," he said. "So, we'll just leave the sphere waiting?" He asked and got up on his feet. He helped her got up too.

"Robin…" Lucina said, unable to finish her sentence.

"We'll finish this discussion later at some point. Alright? Now let's get the sphere and leave this creepy place!" He told her. "See? I told you there are no such things like a curse!" He said and surprisingly she laughed. She didn't giggle, she laughed, for the first time. It was music to his ears.

"You're right! We've had enough of this place," she told him. The two got closer to the sphere and observed it. It shined magically like it was keeping the power of the deep blue oceans or of the infinite sky. Robin double-checked if Lucina was next to him, stretched his hand and grabbed it. He sensed a flow of energy going through his whole body. Feeling refreshed, he put it in his small bag. Lucina checked her surroundings. Everything seemed back to normal; silent, with no shadows or any other illusions. The two decided to return to the exit. The walked past the third, second room and reached the entrance of the temple.

"Robin wait!" Lucina told him, as he was ready to pass through the exit. Everything was quite clear now. There weren't any more tricks for their minds this time.

"Yes?" He asked.

"If you're right and there are indeed no curses, how did we experience all… these?"

"I'm happy that you've asked. Do you remember what was the first thing we did, after we arrived?"

"We decide who will enter?"

"Think again! But focus this time."

"Hmmm… Ok! I see… We drank the water from the pond! The water must have been hexed."

"Exactly!"

"But that should mean…"

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Robin asked.

"The others!"

"Oh, boy…" Robin said and they started running to catch up with their friends, having made the first great step to secure a better future.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 5: Azure

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! Sorry for the one day delay. I hope this chapter is satisfying enough and worth the wait. I had really fun writing it. Again I stayed up until late night... Don't worry I'll check the small mistakes when I wake up. I hope you enjoyed it, as much as I did and remember we have four spheres in the way... I can only say that the next puzzle will a lot more intriguing than the first one... Stay tuned :)

Many thanks to Antex for helping me finding those small mistakes :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear..

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Chapter 15: Chapter 6: Illusions

Illusions

Everything seemed back to normal; silent, with no shadows or any other illusions. The two decided to return to the exit. The walked past the third, second room and reached the entrance of the temple.

"Robin wait!" Lucina told him, as he was ready to pass through the exit. Everything was quite clear now. There weren't any more tricks for their minds this time.

"Yes?" He asked.

"If you're right and there are indeed no curses, how did we experience all… these?"

"I'm happy that you've asked. Do you remember what was the first thing we did, after we arrived?"

"We decided who will enter?"

"Think again! You're close," he said.

"Hmmm… Ok! I see… We drank the water from the pond! The water must have been hexed."

"Exactly!"

"But that should mean…"

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Robin asked.

"The others!"

"Oh, boy…" Robin said and they started running to catch up with their friends, having made the first great step to secure a better future. They were finally out of the temple. Robin felt relieved to see the sunlight again. Although they were in the temple for a couple of hours, for him it seemed like ages. Inside that mysterious building he didn't only find a part of the Shield of Seals, but also it helped him realise something very important. He was finally true to himself and his feelings. He had accepted them and understood why he felt like he had colourful butterflies in his stomach, rapidly flapping their wings and causing a wonderful. That was his second fight that he had to win, apart from saving the world of course. But why he felt that way about Ylisse's fallen Exalt? Well, sometimes there are some questions that you can't answer… yet.

The two quickly walked down the narrow rocky path to reach the end. Feeling curious and afraid of what he would see Robin, rushed at the exit, and so did Lucina. In front of them, their teammates were on the ground, unconscious, trembling, and with their eyes wide open. Having recognised that they were going through the same illusions they had, and feeling sad and sorry for his friends, Robin went straight to help them. The hex had reached into the deepest parts of their soul and had revealed their worst fears. Lucina searched for her sister first and tried to help her in any way possible. Robin rushed to help too and went for the very first person he found. Coincidentally (or not), it was Nah. The young Manakete was lying on the ground, helplessly whispering words. Robin couldn't just stand there and watch his friend suffer from her illusions; he fell at his knees and thought of what he should do. The girl, surprisingly enough, was murmuring his name. He didn't know how to respond to this, but tried shaking her body. She faintly started to react to his actions. Robin then shouted: "Nah! I'm here! Wake up!" His actions paid off when he saw her closing her eyes. She opened them again and regained full control of her actions.

"Robin! You're here!" She said. "I thought…" She continued and immediately put her arms around him and hugged him. Robin felt her bright green hair gently touching his cheeks and blushed, because he felt a little uncomfortable. 'This just keeps happening,' he thought. 'What in the world is everyone seeing?' He continued thinking and hugged Nah back. He broke his silence and told her: "Uhm… Nah? We should help the others too! They need our help. So…"

"Oh right! Please forgive me…"

"No, Nah. I should be the one apologizing. You were right all along. The answer was indeed "illusions". You were seeing illusions in your head."

"It did. You weren't the only one who had those. They were the temple's curse… But we're losing time. Please help me in waking everybody else up."

"I don't know, but try shaking them, shouting their names, or "wake up!" For me, that worked."

"Great!" Robin responded. It was time for them to help the others. When he got up, he was happy to see that Cynthia had recovered as well. They then tried to wake the others up too. It was only a matter of minutes before they had woke everyone up. Or at least that was what they thought. Everyone was in a shock after waking up, mainly because of what had happened. They had literally saw their worst nightmares come to life, without realizing it. Soon, they knew who was missing and began searching. It was Noire. She was nowhere to be found and it caused much stress and anxiety to the team.

"Darn it! Right when I thought I had no more problems for the rest of the day…" Robin thought. He then asked for everyone's help. They decided to split into small groups who would search different areas.

"Was I clear everyone? Gerome and Cynthia will search from the above and we will by land. Team A will search right from the temple and team B from the left. When someone finds her, either shout, or do anything to get in touch with us. Also, because we want nobody to be left behind we should return here right after 10 turns of the hourglass. Understood everyone?" Robin said and the rest followed his orders. He was extremely delighted with being the team's tactician. His friends respected him more and he never really let anyone down. He got to meet everyone better and felt like he truly belonged with them. Now, Noire was missing and that upset him. The effects of the hex were losing their effect and falling in the ground. If she was able to shake it off quickly, then why didn't she help the others? Where and why would she run unexpectedly? All these questions troubled him as he walked his way inside the forest. Robin was especially sad to witness the barren lands and forest, with few trees being able to grow and flourish. It seemed to him that he had forgotten what a flourished flower looked like, or it's smell. However, none of these things mattered right now.

The Shepherds searched deeper in the forest, but with no luck. Thus, they decided to search for Noire individually. Robin teamed up with his pal Owain.

"Man… Where could she be? Do you think we were attacked?" Owain asked.

"I find that unlikely. Why target only her then? The enemy could have taken advantage of your vulnerable state, attack all of you and…you get what I mean," Robin responded.

"What, you want me to tell you what I saw? Alright, but only on the condition that you'll tell me what you saw first," Robin replied.

"You got yourself a deal sir! Ok…" he said. "Everything started with you going inside. You were in the temple for a while and we stood outside chatting, training and planning our next mission. Lucina told us that the second sphere wasn't far away from here and had something to do with… Uhm… what was it again? Anyway, we waited for you. Suddenly, I closed my eyes and when I opened them everybody was gone; the guys, the temple, even the trees. I was left alone in what seemed like an endless land. I was undeniably scared at first, but then I asked from the Hero-King himself to lend me his strength. Then, a large group of Risen soldiers approached. There were many kinds of them, generals, paladins, warriors and snipers. I asked the Hero-King one more time to help me and he did. Instantly, my fists started to glow and I felt… Stronger. Being rejuvenated, I felt my sword hand twitching. I knew it was time. The fated mate to my sword hand, the divine blade Missiletain would lend me its strength for one more legendary battle. I knew destiny beckoned and I rushed at the enemy. I sliced and turned them into ashes, until their commander was left. He looked different than the others. There was something about that Risen. But could it be matched with my skill? Of course not. It took the legendary Hauteclereaxe to match the power of my Missiletain. The battle was fearsome, heroic and could be told for many generations. It fought bravely and because of the weapon triangle the Risen managed to disarm me, with magic. With my legendary sword gone, I was left alone. But the Hero-King didn't let me die. It wasn't meant to be. My hands started to glow again and I decided to fight it with my bare hands. I used every trick in the book; the Shadow Dragon, Radiant Dawn-Fist Edition, and the others. Eventually, I noticed that it was exhausted from battle, so with all my power I jumped and punched it in its forehead. The beast lost the red glow in its eyes and I knew this battle had come into an end. Proud of myself, I heard clapping and cheering. People started to appear and proclaimed me as their hero. Then I heard a familiar voice. It was Cynthia who woke me up. And that's pretty much it. Now your turn!"

"Seriously? Come on Owain! I know you good enough to doubt the credibility of your stories. The truth Owain."

"Well, the story had several flaws all over it, so please tell me what really happened. Only if you really want to though. I don't want to force you to tell me," Robin said.

"You know something Rob-Rob? You're right. You're a great friend and I trust you. Promise me you won't tell anyone."

"I promise."

"Ok… Here it goes…" He said. "Everything started with you going inside. You were in the temple for a while and we stood

outside chatting, training and planning our next mission. Lucina told us that the second sphere wasn't far away from here and had something to do with… Uhm… why can't I remember? Anyway, we waited for you. Suddenly, I closed my eyes and when I opened them everybody was gone; the guys, the temple, even the trees. I was left alone in what seemed like an endless land. I was undeniably scared at first, but then I asked from… my father to lend me his strength. I was feeling lonely, alone and powerless. Then I saw a weird shadow walking towards me. It was a hooded man. He kept coming closer and whispered my name. I shouted at him back and he took his hood off. H-He was my father! Having tears of joy running down my cheeks, I rushed at him and hugged him. I told him how much I missed him and that I didn't want him to leave me again. He greeted me and promised to be by my side. Then… then, out of the blue a Risen appeared. It was a s-sniper. It took an arrow out and, without realising what was going on, the arrow was heading towards me. My father… h-he took the shot for me… j-just like it happened here. He gave his life to save me again," Owain said. Robin saw his moist red eyes and felt sorry for his fellow friend.

"Owain, I'm so sorry…"

"And then he… died in my arms again. I was left alone and then I heard Cynthia's call. You can't imagine how relieved I felt when I understood that nothing of it was real. So...what about you?" Owain asked. Robin decided not to discuss about what Owain had seen because he thought it would make Owain worse. He then started telling him his story.

"We pretty much went inside. Then we learned that the temple was cursed. Doors disappeared and shadows appeared. Then I was in the last room with the jewel in front of me. Soon I understood I was alone in the room and the shadow figure approached me. It revealed to be Morgan. He told me he had killed Lucina and he said bad things about my past. He attacked me with shadows and I stood there; powerless and immobilized, while watching him. At once, I was consumed by darkness, without being able to move, see, or hear. It was then that I understood it was just a dream and I found myself in the last room lying next to Lucina on the floor. I helped her get her senses back and we returned here to help you."

"So you saw yourself dying. I bet nobody liked what they saw. Anyway, where in the world is… Rob! I've found her!" Owain said surprised.

"I guess we're late… Laurent found her first," Robin said and the two tried to get close to them. They were at least 50m (164 ft.) away from them. While they were heading at them, Noire shouted at Laurent like a lion trying to intimidate with a deep roar.

"I'M SICK OF YOU YOU MORON! I'M SICK OF YOU!" She shouted. She then took an arrow out and held it tight in her hand. Without hesitating, she struck his chest and Laurent fell on the ground, screaming. His wound was painful and spread throughout his entire body. He felt like he couldn't breathe and soon he saw blood trickling down from the wound.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 6: Illusions

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! We're back with another chapter. I hope it is a satisfying one. I got to say that I felt really good writing it and I also have a lot more to tell, so I will try everything to get the next one up tomorrow. Stay tuned :) [edit: it seems like every time I "promise" to upload a chapter at a certain date something will go wrong and slow me down... But I'm positive it will be released at 1st of July.

Also, a small disclaimer I stayed up until late night again to finish it (it's like a tradition now...). But don't worry I'll check the small mistakes when I wake up.

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear..

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Chapter 16: Chapter 6: Illusions (II)

Illusions (II)

"So you saw yourself dying. I bet nobody liked what they saw. Anyway, where in the world is… Rob! I've found her!" Owain said surprised.

"I guess were late… Laurent found her first," Robin said and the two tried to get close to them. They were at least 50m (164 ft.) away from them. While they were heading at them, Noire shouted at Laurent like a lion trying to intimidate with a deep roar.

"I'M SICK OF YOU MORON! I'M SICK OF YOU!" She shouted, took an arrow out and held it tight in her hand. Without hesitating, she stroke his chest and Laurent fell on the ground, screaming. His pain was sharp and spread in his entire body. He felt like he couldn't breathe and soon he saw blood trickling down from the wound.

"What are you doing? *No*!" Owain yelled in desperation. The myrmidon and the tactician couldn't believe in their eyes. Soon, they ran to aid their friend. Noire after seeing them coming towards her, panicked and decided to flee. Robin saw her running away, understood her intentions and bravely said, "No, you're not going anywhere. *Elwind*!" At once, from the palm of his hand semi-circular shaped beams of light were created and targeted the young archer. Noire, petrified, couldn't avoid the hit. The bright green beams found target and carried her away. She fell in the muddy ground with power and thought it was better for her to stay there.

Robin then raised his hand up in the air and shouted, *"Arcfire"*. Then, a hot sphere made by pure fire was thrown at the sky. It travelled high, until it exploded in the air like a firework. It was his signal to the others that he had found her. Who would have known that things would turn out this way? Robin wasn't just calling them to come and pick Noire; he was desperately calling for help. Laurent was still unconscious on the ground, bleeding to death.

"Should I take the arrow out of him?" Owain asked in panic. "Answer Robin!" He yelled.

"No. Absolutely no! It will make the bleeding worse. We should wait for Brady to come. Unfortunately, he's the expert on these…" He responded worried. "Damn it! Where is everyone?" He asked mad.

"Hey! Look who woke up! How you've been feeling today?"

"Argh… Hey Robin. What happened? Where am I?" Laurent weakly asked confused.

"You were severely injured. Noire hit you with her arrow, remember?"

"Right. How couldn't I?"

"Owain and I found you unconscious and immediately asked for help. We wouldn't let you fall there. Soon, Cynthia with Sumia came and provided the best of help."

"But in reality ya were damn lucky to live. You scared the life outta us pal. If that pesky arrow had got deeper it would have ripped your heart. So that's a reason for ya to celebrate today. But do me a favor and give your self some rest. Anyway, I'm outta here,"

"Hey Brady wait for me," Robin urged to tell him. He turned to his Laurent and said calmly before exiting, "Everything is fine; my friend; you don't have to worry about anything. Just relax and when you're feeling better we'll leave this place, which is probably tomorrow."

"Rob! Be careful. She's pure evil," Laurent told him with his remaining strength.

"I'll be back, my friend. Just do as we said," Robin told him assertively.

Robin followed the blonde priest outside of the tent. Laurent took a deep breath and tried not to think of his injury, but felt curious and silently checked himself. Apparently, his friends had carefully brought him in this large tent and he was lying on a comfortable white sheet. The place of his wound he was covered by hand-made bandages. Having nothing to do, but rest, he followed his friends' advice.

Robin caught up with Brady.

"Hey Brad! Thanks for earlier," Robin told him.

"No prob man. It was my pleasure. I know Laurent for quite Damn! I still haven't recovered from the water…"

"At least we had something to drink. I swear I wouldn't have lasted for another day," Robin confessed.

"You too are damn Sorcerers. If you can create fire from nothing, I don't see why not water, as well. Think of it. It could solve our biggest problem."

"I hope I would. I don't know if Laurent has managed to pull it off, but for me it seems impossible. Unless…" Robin's face lit. He looked at Brady with a silly smile on his face.

"Where's Lucina?" Robin asked cheerful.

"I believe in her tent. Why?"

Robin approached Lucina's tent and stood outside. He looked at the sky and waited. He gazed at the sun that was ready to set and the approaching clouds that wanted to hide the stars for the night. He sighed worried of what would follow.

"Lucina? May I come in?" He asked calmly. Lucina responded positively and Robin eager came inside. He found the young Exalt chatting with the red haired mercenary.

"Uhm… I apologize if I'm interrupting anything. I should come at a later time," Robin said and decided to exit.

"Robin wait! I was ready to leave, that's why Lucina told you to enter in the first place. So you two have fun," Severa said and left the tent. As she was passing the entrance their eyes locked. It might have been just a couple of seconds, but or Robin that moment lasted for quite a while. She gave him a warm look and Robin blushed. He was also surprised by her reply, which was nice and calm. He had learned to always expect the worse from her, but he knew that she had a soft side hidden deep inside her. And the origin of her nickname would be the key to find it. When this moment ended he was left alone to discuss with Lucina.

"Is Severa all right?" He asked seriously.

"As far as I know yes. She came to apologize because she was at her tent when the hex's effects took place. She felt guilty of not protecting the others."

"Wait, the hex was casted on everyone who drank the water of the pond. Also, I saw her drinking the water with my own two eyes. How couldn't she be affected by it?"

"She told me that the effects of the hex have yet to appear to her. You remember that she was the first to help us wake everyone up, along with Cynthia and Nah, right?"

"No, I didn't notice that," he responded.

"So Robin… Do you also remember about the thing I wanted to talk to you about?" Robin discreetly gulped. Her words caught him off guard.

"Yes… No, I mean no. Which one was it again?" He said reluctantly.

"Yes. In fact they were two things. First I wanted to discus with you what we should do about Noire, and then about the location of the next sphere."

"Oh! Yes, I remember," he said relieved. "About Noire, I believe we decided to interrogate her first. Owain and Inigo are watching over her at their tent and they are probably waiting for us. We were lucky that Laurent wasn't severely injured. Brady said he'll be on his feet tomorrow morning and we'll be ready to leave by then," he continued.

"Right. I still can't believe such a thing happened. I mean we might know Noire for not as long as everybody else, and we knew about her second personality, but who could possibly think that something like this could happen?!"

"It was a shock for all of us. Imagine if Owain and I arrived at the crime scene too late. Shepherds' would have taken a serious blow. But why do you believe such thing happened?" Robin asked.

"I have no idea Robin. You know Noire and how shy she is. It must have something to do with the water. Meaning it could have that *inner demon* she's been talking about awoken. I can't find of any other reason," she replied.

"Do you believe she could betray us? She might be with working with Grima, if you think about it. The guys told me that her mother was from Plegia and had a twisted personality too."

"Robin… Anyway forget it. Let's leave the assumptions for after the interrogation. Now, I also wanted to tell you where the next sphere is. The map says it's at a place called *the Valley.* Does it ring any bells?"

"Nope. I've never heard of it. How dangerous could it be, though? It's… a valley!"

"That's what I'm afraid of! But you also know that this temple looked like a piece of cake too, and we ended up close never leaving that place."

"Look, I accept that I was wrong there, but if we solve and understand the riddle faster this time we should be able to take precautions."

"I guess… But this one doesn't make sense," she said.

"Maybe it doesn't at first. But when we'll examine it later, it might do. Speaking of spheres I believe I've solved the water problem."

At that moment they heard footsteps outside of the tent. Then Inigo stepped in and yelled, "Robin, Lucina we've been waiting for days. Owain and I can't be watching over her for the whole day. Robin! You said you'd go for a quick visit on Laurent and look where you ended up being. Lucina! Your cousin told you twice to come and he's still waiting for you, so we can finally know what freaking happened between Noire and Laurent. Our tent *now*!" Robin had never seen Inigo that aggressive. His face had gotten red, as he pointed at the exit of Lucina's tent.

"Inigo, relax. I know you're stressed to find out what happened. And believe me that I'm too, but we should calm down first and not yell at each other. Lucina, Inigo is right. We should go." Lucina nodded.

Robin and Lucina entered the tent that Noire was held. He found the archer sitting on the ground silent and sad, with the two swordsmen standing next to her, with their arms crossed, showing no emotion.

"Finally you're here! What took you so long?" Owain asked. Robin decided not to respond. Instead he took a seat next to the girl and calmly began talking to her.

"How are you Noire? I feel very sorry for all these to happen. Guys! Quit the angry look, Noire is a friend of us, not an enemy." Immediately, Inigo screamed, "A true friend does not hit his friend with an arrow, right in the heart. You know something Noire? I'M sick of you and your manners." Inigo then left the tent. The young lady burst into tears. Her sandy brown eyes were wet and streams of tears run down her soft cheeks.

"Robin, it's not what it looks like," she hesitantly murmured.

"Would you like to shed a light on us?" Robin replied as calm and polite as he could. He tried to show her that he was not her enemy and that he wanted the best for her. Lucina tried to interfere, but Robin with a quick hand gesture told her not to.

"I can't Robin," Noire said with more salty droplets seeping from her eyes. She felt powerless and all she wanted to do was to cry.

"Why?" Robin asked curious.

"Because *he* will kill *me*! Please understand."

"I'm afraid I can't Noire. If you tell me, I swear I'll offer you protection," he said in an assertive tone.

"You can't," she said shaking her head "Nobody can. Not from him. Not now."

"And how do I know that this isn't more of those tricks of yours? Why did you attack Laurent? I need you to tell me so I can trust you!" He told her emphasizing in *trust*.

"No Robin. I prefer having you all against me, rather than facing him."

"Who is he Noire? Morgan? Grima? For goodness sake Noire, who?" Robin cracked. He couldn't pretend he was calm and smooth anymore and thus he shouted at her. This caused her talisman to react to her feelings. Her misty eyes turned red and dry. Also her pendant glowed a bright red light. She gave a mean look at Robin and screamed, "DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?"

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! Better late than never! (I wonder how many times I will say that...) So I quickly read through this chapter and I noticed there were some "holes" like when Laurent wakes up, or when he visited Lucina. These were on purpose because there was no point in describing the whole process, again and again, as I did with Robin before. Also, I know in this chapter dialogue parts dominate, but it was just for this chapter.

- Yup. Their next destination is the infamous *Valley.*

-*Responses to recent reviews:*

1): Hutch McDavish! Thank you for reviewing. You mentioned that Owain is "falling" for Robin, which technically means that he's in love with him. I can assure that this isn't true. There's no Yaoi or Yuri in this fanfic. :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Chapter 17: Chapter 6: Illusions (III)

Illusions (III)

"Who is he Noire? Morgan? Grima? For goodness sake Noire, who?" Robin cracked. He couldn't pretend he was calm and smooth anymore and thus he shouted at her. This caused her talisman to react to her feelings. Her misty eyes turned red and dry. Also her pendant glowed a bright red light. She gave a mean look at Robin and screamed, "*DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?*"

Robin saw Noire's transformation and gulped. He chose to not engage a battle with her since that would be any helpful. With a hand gesture he tried to tell the others not to attack either. However, both Lucina and Owain held their blades from the grip. Owain particularly pressed his blade's handle with great stress, because he had no idea what was going on in front of his eyes. One of his friends wasn't she anymore.

"Yes, Noire. I want to learn the truth. There are a lot of things at stake, right now and your help is crucial. So, please will you tell us the truth?"

"*SILLY MORTAL. OUR PLAN IS BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS. THE DARK LORD WILL SOON CONSUME THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS SHALL FALL IN THIS LAND ONCE AND FOR ALL. THE FIRST STEP WAS MADE WITH YLISSE'S FALL, AND THE NEXT ONE WILL BE THE FINAL. NOTHING IN THE EXISTENCE WILL EVER STAND IN OUR WAY…*" The voice inside the woman said with fury. Robin listened to it closely, while staying en garde.

"Your way? Noire what are you even talking about?" Owain yelled.

"*SILENCE MORTAL!*" The archer said with a deep voice.

"Owain… I don't think that she's Noire," Lucina told him. Robin who listened to her shouted at archer, "What have you done to Noire?"

"*THIS ISN'T IMPORTANT. MY JOB IS TO ELIMINATE ANYONE THAT WILL STAND IN OUR WAY…*"

Robin couldn't hear any more. He instinctively took out his tome and murmured, "Wind" At once; a stream of air was produced by his magic at headed at the archer. Noire's eyes glowed brighter. She seemed unconcerned by his attack. She raised her hand with will, while her talisman produced a strong red light. Right before Robin's eyes, the wind stopped. Noire silently moved towards Robin.

"*YOU ARE THE TRUE MYSTERY HERE ROBIN, NOT ME. YOUR ORIGIN IS THE QUESTION THAT YOU SHOULD BE ASKING.*"

"Y-You know about my past?" Robin asked confused.

"*I DO!*"

"Then tell me! Who am I? What am I? W-…"

"*I WON'T.*"

"That's enough! Answer me, now!" Robin said in fury. He tried attacking her one more time. This time he was cloaked by a red aura, much like Noire. He wasn't looking at any of his tomes, but focused on his enemy. "Bolganone," he shouted in anger. Immediately, the ground beneath Noire started to crack and open wide, like a fissure. Hot streams of air and smoke came out, at first.

Owain who stood next to the tent's exit feared of what was about to happen. Robin had just used one of his weird, but extremely powerful magic attacks, much like he had done against Morgan. This time it was different. He wasn't protecting his friends. Robin was surprisingly guided by his anger.

After foreseeing an upcoming disaster Owain pleaded at Robin to stop. "She's playing with you Robin! Stop! Please!"

Robin turned his head back and looked at Owain. Robin observed the fear in the vibrant myrmidon's eyes, the cold sweat running down his forehead and his sword hand twitching in stress. But it was too late to undo his actions. From the earth's opening, a violent eruption occurred with the burning fire aiming to incinerate its target. The young girl burst into flames and let the fire embrace her.

"Noo!" Lucina screamed in devastation. Owain rushed to protect his lord. He grabbed her from her waist and fell at the

ground together, with him on top. He was using his body as a shield to guard her with the best way possible. Then, he turned to Robin and shouted him to stop. Robin stood still watching nothing but the fire destroying everything it burned. Soon, the tent caught fire and threatened to expand and harm the others.

"Robin! Listen to me! Stop!" Lucina said desperately trying to make him end his madness.

In a blink of an eye, something that could be described as a miracle happened. The blazing flares disappeared. But Noire hadn't gone anywhere. She stood right were she was still with her eyes shut. Robin, Lucina and Owain looked amazed at her. Her skin looked unharmed and Robin's red aura had faded away. He felt again powerless against her. Powerless to protect his friends. With a quick move she opened them and stared at Robin. Her look seemed more menacing than ever. She slowly walked towards him and said.

"*FOOL! YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ME!" She told him with her deep voice. "I CAN'T ANSWER YOU, BECAUSE YOU WILL DISCOVER YOUR PAST YOURSELF! BUT… I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT FULFILLING MY JOB…*" She continued. At once, she said: "*Goetia*" Suddenly, black clouds of corrupted darkness infused with masses of bright purple lighting gathered around Robin. Before they surrounded him he shouted at his friends: "Run!" But, Owain and Lucina chose not to. She quickly got up and unsheathed her Falchion and stood by for battle, and so did Owain.

Then, the darkness violently exploded. Robin felt his whole body burning, but most importantly he screamed from pain after experiencing a fierce piercing right in his heart. The tactician's body couldn't handle the ache and he fainted. Soon, the darkness dissolved and the possessed Noire knelt down at Robin.

"*AND I'M NOT NOIRE*," she whispered before vanishing into thin air.

Robin slowly opened his eyes and looked around him. He was right where he had fallen unconscious. Owain and Lucina were taking care of him, as it seemed. Feeling weak and disoriented he asked them what happened after his fall.

"Nothing really. Just that Noire or her "inner demon" escaped. While you were unconscious you were sleep talking," Owain told him.

"You begged to be killed Robin." Lucina told him seriously. "Do you remember what nightmare made you say that?" She asked him.

"I don't. The last thing I remember is that I questioned her about my past and that she refused to respond. I can't recall anything else. Ugh… my head feels weird. What happened to me?" He weakly asked.

"You engaged a battle with Noire. It appeared that her talisman controls her body and soul and gave her incredible strength. She was practically brainwashed," Owain explained.

"What? So we got more questions than answers… Any ideas where she has gone?"

"No Robin. But I know where we should go. You remember that she mentioned that the dark lord had a plan right? We have to find Tiki as soon as possible and warn her about these. Sticking to our plan is the only way of surviving," Lucina said before Inigo stepped in, looking stressed and worried.

"Good Grief! We heard shouts and explosions. There was even a fire! What happened here?" He asked troubled.

"There are a lot to explain, but everything is good, for now. " Owain responded.

"At least, she didn't finish what she started…" Robin thought.

"So Lucina… I believe it's time for us to solve the next riddle. Owain, I need you to explain to Inigo what happened and warn the others too," Robin told him after regaining full consciousness. "We don't know what she is about to do and we need to be prepared," he said. While he was trying to get up, Inigo told him, "Robin… Before you leave with Lucina, Laurent asked to see you. He said it was important."

"Alright I will visit him," Robin said, and also thanked Lucina and Owain for their help. "Right after I see Laurent, I will come over to your tent Lucina. We've got work to do."

"Right," Lucina said and nodded.

Robin quickly left. While he was walking his way to Laurent's tent the rest of the Shepherds' members approached him, asking him about what happened. Robin reluctantly answered and decided that it was best for them to speak with the others instead.

Soon, he reached Laurent's tent. As he was about to get inside he suffered from a painful headache. He felt his head heavy and a sharp pain in his skull. He tried to overlook it, and entered the tent. He found Laurent resting. He tried to overcome his pain and decided to speak.

"You wanted to see me Laurent?"

The mage opened his eyes and responded, "Yes, Robin. I wanted to ask you what happened with Noire? Did she get punished for her actions?"

Robin was confused. "Punished? Why?"

"Because she tried to kill me, Robin! If it weren't for you I would be dead right now!" He said angry.

"Laurent! What are you talking about? Noire is our friend!" Robin said defending the archer.

"I warned you she's pure evil Robin! And look at what happened! I heard explosions and screams. But I warned you… I did."

"And how did you know about her condition?" Robin asked serious.

"I noticed her strange behavior when she was wearing her talisman. I may know her for a decent amount of time, but I never saw her wearing this. If I remember correctly it was a gift from her mother. Anyway, I went to the woods to find her. She saw me and tried to run away. I followed her and I tried talking some sense to her, because of her action. However, she ignored my words and started screaming. And then I found myself with an arrow in my chest. Look Robin and please understand. This Noire isn't Noire. She's different and dangerous. We need to stop her once and for all!"

"I can't believe I'm hearing this. Laurent, she's our friend! We can't leave her behind and kill her. We must help her! That would be the fair thing to do!"

"Don't tell me what's fair and what not Robin. She tried to murder me. She's evil. And I'm sure you already know yourself. You can't lie to yourself Robin."

"Stop it Laurent!" Robin yelled. "Everybody deserves a second chance. I'm pretty sure that she didn't do it on purpose. She must have been brainwashed by the talismans demon. She needs our help Laurent." Robin said and left the tent in fury. The tactician couldn't believe how many problems could occur in a single day. But, there was only one person that could help him. And he had agreed to meet her.

"Lucina, may I come in?" He asked calmly.

"Of course Robin. I had been waiting for you. Is everything fine with Laurent?" The young lord asked. She was sitting carefully examining the map.

"He can't forgive Noire for what happened. Even though I told him she isn't our enemy."

"Uhm… Robin. You were the first to attack her."

"I was… I remember now!" Robin said I'm sorry Lucina. For all the trouble I caused. It's just I'm desperate to learn more about my origin. I roughly sleep at nights. I can't stand the idea of being someone bad."

"Robin, it doesn't matter who or what you were. What matters is the *choices* you make from now on. Our choices are the ones that define us as people. You choose to help and create then you become a hero. You choose to destroy then you become Grima. But right now I choose to work hard and find a solution for our next destination. Are you ready?"

"Yes, I am. Thank you for reminding me of that."

"I'll always be here Robin, in case you ever need anything. So would you like to hear it?"

"Sure," Robin responded calmly.

"Here it goes: Over fire and over land, over seas and sand, shining like the sun's light, or like the moon that shine's at night. Under the sacred ring, right where I conquered the king, you'll find me die, or at least you'll try…"

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! I returned from my short hiatus. I was extremely busy those days, but I've finally got the time to write a new chapter. And I'm positive that I will update very soon, because that chapter ended up short and i have more free time these days...

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

[edit]: I apologise for the huge 2 week delay. I'm terribly sorry and be assured that the new chapter will be finished by 26 of July. Have a nice day everyone :/

Chapter 18: Chapter 7: Soul of Darkness

Soul of Darkness

"Here it goes: Over fire and over land, over seas and sand, shining like the sun's light, or like the moon that shine's at night. Under the sacred ring, right where I conquered the king, you'll find me die, or at least you'll try… Do you have any idea what could it mean?" She added.

The riddle confused Robin as, at first, didn't made any sense. Still, he wasn't in a situation of thinking about the meaning of the riddle. His mind was at Lucina's previous words: *"Our choices are the ones that define us as people."* Was it true? He agreed. From now on he would try to become the person he wanted to be, leaving his darker past behind.

"Robin?" Lucina discreetly asked again, as she noticed that the tactician was lost in his thought. Robin immediately came back to his senses.

"Y-Yes," he faintly said.

"Any idea?" The lord asked. The tactician shook his head.

"I don't have a clue, but Lucina…" he said.

"Yes Robin," She responded curiously. Robin's face looked serious.

"Do you recall what you asked me when I woke up, after Noire's hit?"

"I do Robin, as Owain does too… *What made you…*" she murmured.

"…*Say I want to die*." He said, creating a situation of awkward silence between the two. Robin took a deep breath and continued.

"I replied I couldn't remember, but I lied." He said lowering his head in remorse.

"What? Why?" She asked surprised.

"When Noire, or her *inner demon,* hit me with the dark magic, I felt like a strong and sharp blade pierced my heart. I experienced an imaginary scenario like in the temple. That when I got up from the hit, Noire was gone and you and Owain were hit too, but…" He said, as he was on the verge of tears but decided to control his emotions.

"But you… didn't make it. Y-Your bodies lied on the ground full of injuries and covered in blood. I tried to call for help and I quickly left the tent. I desperately tried to find an elixir, a staff anything. I cried for help, but I got no answer. I knew that something was wrong I searched everywhere, but the only thing I found was the corpses of my comrades and the emptiness of my soul. In those times of grief, Noire's demon appeared in front of me. I yelled I should be dead. I begged her to take me in your place, but she laughed at my request. Then I felt my body burning. I had surrendered to my rage again and I tried to confront her again. Before I did anything she disappeared, with everything around me too. It was my time to wake up. You couldn't imagine my relief when I realized you were alive. Even if the slightest of my nightmare was true I…" He stopped talking. He didn't have anything to add.

Lucina heard the tactician's dream and felt sad for him. She tried to comfort him.

After discussing about his dream, and their mission for a while, it was the time for the man to leave, but before he did an idea flashed at his mind.

"Lucina, do you remember our water supply problem?" He said bursting from excitement. Lucina nodded and he continued.

"Can I have the blue stone of legend?" He asked calmly. Lucina got up and revealed a small wooden box. She cautiously handed it to Robin. The tactician held it with care and carefully opened it. As he did, a stream of blue light flooded his face. The enthralling sea blue sphere fascinated Robin. He was gazing the sphere, unable to take his eyes off it. It seemed to him that inside the sphere its light depicted the boundless oceans or the vast sky.

Robin took the sphere and kept it in the palm of his hand. He turned at Lucina and said: "We could use it. It must have the power to either produce or purify water. So, we could use it to break the spell casted on the pond." Lucina was left speechless. She stared at Robin while she was also thinking his words.

"I guess we could try it. I suppose we don't have anything to lose," she replied.

"Alright. All we need is a small bottle," Robin said fired-up.

Robin and Lucina left the tent and followed the path to the pond. He was following this path for a second time. He didn't even want to remember the previous time and what the water caused to him and his comrades. This time he was determined to turn the existence of such water in his favor. If the sphere had the power to break the pond's spell, the Shepherds would never again search for water. Soon, after walking for several minutes, they reached the enchanted pond. It looked like a lone oasis in the middle of a great and barren desert. It had a few weeds around it, as well as tree trunks without leaves, and the ground wasn't solid but mostly muddy.

"I never thought I'd come back here again," Lucina told him.

"Me neither, but if my plan works then we'll be grateful that we did," he responded.

Robin reached closer to it and asked Lucina to give him the small bottle.

Robin knelt down, without worrying of getting dirt and slowly, but steadily, he tried to fill the bottle with the pond's water. When he did he told her: "It might had caused us troubles, but we can't say for sure that we won't need it in the future. It might prove useful. You never know…" She agreed.

Next it was time for Robin to fully test the sphere's purifying powers. He got the wooden box from his pocket and opened it. Robin got the glaring sphere out and held it tight in his hands. He turned at Lucina.

"Let's hope for the best," Robin said nervous for the result. He took the sphere and proceeded plunging it inside the water. At once, the sphere started glowing and the pond's water was filled by the sacred stones azure light. Robin closed his eyes, due to his reflexes, and opened them. The light was no more. "That was indeed easy," he thought.

"Robin! Was our plan a success or not?" The lord asked. Robin looked unsure.

"There is only one way to find out," he responded confidently.

"You don't mean…" She said surprised.

"Unfortunately, I do. There isn't any other way," he said, while taking a deep breath. "And to be honest, nothing really bad happened the last time. So, what could go wrong, if we failed? Either way, I know that I have you by my side, ready to help," he said with a smile. Lucina nodded. Robin took the sphere out of the water and placed it back on its box. He closed it and sighed. He rolled up his sleeves and sunk his hands in the pond. Instantly, he felt the cold water freezing his fingers and the chill proceed deeper inside him. Robin then used his hands to get some water out of the pond and fill his mouth with it. The water's taste was different. He felt its sweetness and he was refreshed by it. Now it was the time for the final test. He picked up the wooden box and got up. Robin quickly checked his surroundings. Fortunately enough he didn't observe anything strange or unreal.

"How do you feel?" Lucina asked inquisitively.

"I'm feeling… good! I believe it worked!" Robin said thrilled.

"Thank goodness. Robin you outdid yourself this time," Lucina smiled warmly.

"Oh, well, I had a lot of help from you too. So I can't take all the credit myself. But I really appreciate it, thanks," he said. "Now, all we have to do is inform the others," he added.

"I agree. Also, there is still one question remaining. Can the sphere produce its own water?"

"That remains to be seen. But I can assure you that I will work hard to figure out how," he said.

"I know Robin. I'm grateful for that."

"You don't have to. It's my duty, after all we've been through."

Lucina smiled and stared at the tactician. Robin felt his heart racing once again. Even though *Azure* stone's color and light fascinated him by remembering him the oceans or the sky, when he was looking at Lucina's eyes, he felt like he was already sailing the seven seas or already soaring the sky.

"I believe we should head back," Robin added ending the silence. The lord agreed and together they headed back at their camp. It was time for them to pack their things and prepare for their next journey to the *Valley.* But first they needed

to take some water supplies, at least until Robin found how to produce water from *Azure*.

When they returned to the camp, they surprisingly found their comrades gathered together, as they were spectating an event. Robin curious to find out what was going on he got closer. He found Yarne with his eyes closed shut.

"Hey what is going on?" He asked.

"They're training. Oh… I can't look. I might even get part of this fight… No no…" He said worried. Robin knew about his timid nature, but never quite experienced it in first hand. He tried comforting him.

"Yarne who's fighting against who?" Lucina asked.

"It's S-Severa against O-Owain. They're training to become better when they'll face Noire again, but they don't use our wooden replica swords…" he reluctantly said. Robin and Lucina got deeper to get a closer look. As it seemed the two Shepherds were exhausted from fighting. The others had formed a small circle around the two.

"I'm not done yet Owain," the mercenary yelled.

"Then bring it on!" He responded. "Radiant Dawn!" the vibrant man cried, moving against Severa. He was sweating heavily, but continued to practice nonetheless. He opened with a fore hit. The mercenary parried it. She drew her sword back and decided not to engage immediately.

"Pathetic…" She muttered.

Owain's eyes frowned and he decided to run at her. He jumped in mid air and tried to strike, but Severa defended herself again. When Owain landed on the ground he found himself in a very difficult situation. Severa had already predicted his move, so she responded with a low kick. She hit him dead on the back of his knee making him fall abruptly.

Severa held her trusty blade on his neck. She had won.

"Dead," she told him mockingly. "If you're to fall down that easy then…" She tried to continue, but Owain rolled over and freed himself.

The anger in his friend's eyes was clear. He saw the determination to win. But she predicted his next reckless move.

Owain run again at Severa and jumped in mid air. He attacked with a vertical slice, with the mercenary parrying the hit again. She assessed the situation and figured a plan to win again. Severa tried to finish the game with a low kick, but found Owain blocking the hit with his fist. The myrmidon pushed her, with power and Severa struggled to maintain her balance as she walked backwards. Owain rushed at her, screaming. He attacked with a quick horizontal hit, leaving Severa open and defenceless for the final blow.

And then Robin saw it. He understood that Owain wouldn't stop. He understood that he would proceed to execute his move to its fullest. But it was too late.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 7: Soul of Darkness

A/N (Author's Note): ... It's good to finally be back... it feels ages... Sorry for the long wait. My schedule was super rough and I wasn't able to write full time. I hope this chapter is satisfying enough. In the next ones we'll find out what happened in the Valley and it's importance to our story. Stay tuned because this time I'll do what I must and try to update as soon as possible!

-Oh my... Recently we hit (and even surpassed) the amazing number of 50 followers! Such an incredible milestone couldn't be left unnoticed. It might seem unimportant to you but for me it means a *lot*. It shows me that my hard work and effort I put in those chapters is paying off and I really can't thank you guys enough for sticking with the story. That's what inspires me most... :) I can only say that the best is on the way. From the bottom of my hear "Thank You."

-Replies to recent reviews:

SwordKArt! Thank you for finding the story unique, but this story isn't based on a love triangle. It was my fault not making this clear earlier. It's just that Robin hasn't been completely honest about his emotions to himself. Also, I like to maintain the suspense of who the woman in the prologue is, because when you already know with who the main character will

end up with, the story will focus only on the relationship aspect from one point and on. Personally I believe that: "It's the journey and not the destination that matters," that's why I haven't revealed the identity of the woman in the prologue yet. Either way, I'm grateful for reading through the story. :)

Guest! Haha... Noire needs some love indeed. It's funny to know I contributed at a 0.01% in your decision for making her your wife in your next play-through :P

Last, but never least Hutch McDavish! Thank you for reviewing again! Don't worry. More answers are on the way and the "half fun" that was lost will return ;)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

[edit]: Next chapter 30th of July :)

Chapter 19: Chapter 7: Soul of Darkness (II)

Soul of Darkness (II)

And then Robin saw it. He understood that Owain wouldn't stop. He understood that he would proceed to execute his move to its fullest. Immediately he tried to prevent the upcoming disaster, but it was too late.

His sword was lunged towards her. It made a "Shing!" noise as it slipped the air. All Severa could see was his sword coming fiercely towards her. She was consumed by fear. The unexpected attack resulted in the sword hitting her dead on, severing her flesh. The pain, tinged the area of the wound, caused her to scream. In all of her life she had never experienced being violently pierced. Her trusty katana fell from her hand. The only sound that could be heard was the metal hitting the ground. Though, this wasn't the sound that echoed in Robin's ears. It was Severa's scream. In reality it was just a mere of milliseconds, but for Robin it felt like time had stopped flowing.

Owain removed his sword from her body and was left immobilized. His angry face became a face full of guilt. From his blade the cold blood ran down to the ground, just like the chilly sweat on his forehead. He couldn't believe what he had just done.

Robin couldn't stand watching it. He rushed at the mercenary and pleaded his friends for help. With Severa bleeding in front of him, he fell at his knees. He was holding her head in his arm softly, while pressing her wound. Severa quickly began to lose consciousness. Robin couldn't but burst to tears.

"Look at me!" He yelled at her, as his tear ran down his left red cheek. His heart was racing. Severa didn't seem to respond.

"Don't do this to me! Please!" He screamed again and quickly turned around to search for Brady. Unfortunately, he wasn't there to be seen.

Then, like a miracle Severa regained her senses, but was too weak to move. With great difficulty, she spread her hand at Robin's cheek and stared at him. Their eyes locked and with all her remaining strength she tried to murmur her last words.

"Robin, I… I…" She didn't finish. Soon her eyes had closed. Her hand helplessly fell, but Robin held it with care. He quickly lowered his head to check her heartbeat. Then stared at the skies and left a shout, which sounded like a roar. The Shepherds lowered their heads mourning their loss.

Out of the blue, Brady came and knelt next to Robin. The young priest had brought his staff.

"It's not too late," he said. "There's still a glimpse of hope left," the priest continued. He brought his staff close to her wound. This one was quite unusual. Instead of Brady's signature staff, which was golden with a crescent shape tip and a blue sphere on it, he had brought a complete different one. In comparison with his other one, this staff had a wooden base and middle and on its tip a darker blue sphere.

He closed his eyes and soon the sphere started to glow. Its bright light made Robin and Brady close their eyes. The rest of the Shepherds were closely looking at them afraid of the outcome of their actions. Owain did too.

When the light faded, Robin opened his eyes at once and checked her heartbeat. "It can't be!" He screamed and began compressing her chest.

"Again!" He yelled at him.

Brady's look was different. From the look in his eyes, Robin knew he had lost hope. The priest didn't move.

"Again! Damn it!" Robin shouted with anger. Brady brought the staff close to her wound again. Although, the wound was closed as a result of their previous action, Severa didn't respond. Again the light was strong enough to force them to close their eyes.

When it faded, Robin moved his ear close to her chest. "No! It… I-It can't be!" He said and continued compressing her chest.

"Again!" He ordered Brady, who tried one last time. This time the sphere's light was stronger than ever, as it was boosted with the light of hope in each of the Shepherds' hearts. When it stopped Robin, filled with hope and courage, moved his head again above her heart. He felt his own pumping like crazy and wished the same happened to her too. After

examined her, he raised his head and turned at his friends.

"Robin?" Brady asked in suspense. The tactician was speechless. He lowered his head and let the tears in his eyes fall like raindrops on November rain. He held her in his hands, trying to wipe the blood on her face and caressing her fire red hair. Inside Robin the light of hope was gone. It was superseded of the hot fire of anger. It was exactly as with Noire. An inner force, a darker one, had driven him to attack. Now the darkness in his soul clouded his head and let the fire inside him burn more with every second passing.

Robin stared at the mercenary's face. He moved his lips close to her cheek. He kissed her and held her in his arms.

"She's gone Robin. Let it go…" Brady told him, having tear in his eyes as well.

Robin slowly and carefully left her body lie on the ground. He got up and gave Owain an angry look. The vibrant swordsman couldn't even look his friend at his eyes.

"R-Robin, everyone… I-I… It wasn't my fault," he tried to explain losing his words from his nervousness.

"And whose is, Owain? Whose?" He yelled.

"Robin please… Y-You have to listen to me… I'm no-"

"You're… dead." Robin replied coldly. The tactician let a powerful red aura cloak him. He embraced the power given to him by his emotions and was ready to attack. Robin let the darkness in his soul take control.

"Robin! Please!" Owain screamed in fear. The tactician could listen or feel. His friends rushed at Robin to make him stop. Like Owain before him, Robin wouldn't stop. He spread his hand and created a psychic barrier around him. The dim, but powerful red light that covered him, didn't allow anyone get near him. Robin walked slowly towards Owain.

"Valmflame…" The tactician murmured. Out of thin air, great masses of fire were created. Robin used his hands to direct them the way he wanted. He used his powers to create thousands of arrows made of pure fire. With great force he spread the palm of his hands at his friend. Owain defenseless accepted his fate and closed his eyes, ready to face the blow. The arrows were sent at great speed towards the swordsman. He didn't try to escape or dodge the hit.

As the arrows got closer, Owain felt the presence of someone near him. He opened his eyes to see his cousin, with her legendary sword raised, defending him. Suddenly, the fiery arrows stopped moving right in front of them.

"You have nothing to do with this. Leave!" Robin shouted.

"Stop it Robin! This isn't you!" Lucina told him. "Fight back Robin! Fight back the darkness inside you! The darkness that you're afraid of!" Lucina continued.

"This has nothing to do with all of you!" Robin screamed as an even greater mass of fire was produced. This time it seemed like an ocean of fire. The Shepherds didn't even dare to approach them. Deep inside, Robin heard a voice. "*Finish them Robin... Fulfill the meaning of your existence…*"

"Fight back Robin! Fight it back!" The young lord pleaded him. The stream of fire, which seemed now endless, came at them like the water of a rapid river destroying everything in its path. The fire fast approached the two and vaporized Lucina's last stream of tears.

"Fight it back Robin!" The tactician heard as he opened his eyes. Quickly, as he regained his consciousness tried to check his surroundings. He was still lying at the forest, close to the pond. Lucina sighed in relief.

"It appears that your idea didn't quite work," she told him.

"Thank goodness you're okay!" Robin said and rushed to hug her. "How's Severa? How's Owain? Are they alright?" He asked impatiently.

"They're fine. Everyone is okay. You can relax. What did the illusions made you see this time?" She responded.

"An absolutely horrible nightmare," the tactician said. He took a deep breath and asked her how long he was being asleep.

"Not much. Don't worry about it."

"And… What happened?"

"We were about to leave the pond, but you started to feel dizzy. I realized Azure didn't work, as it was supposed to and you suddenly fainted. It took me a while to bring you back to your senses, but I'm glad that you're fine now," she said relieved.

"Thank you for taking care of me," Robin said. "I apologize for my stupid ideas…" He continued.

"No no no. They weren't at all stupid."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that the pond's water level rose significantly!"

"That means…"

"That your stupid idea worked! It may didn't purify the water and break the spell, but when I looked at the pond again, it was overflowed by water. Congratulations Robin. You've just solved the water problem!"

"We did it?" The tactician asked. Lucina prideful nodded bringing a long needed joy in his heart.

"But Robin…" Lucina said. "What did you see this time?" She questioned. Robin hoped he wouldn't come at the position of answering in detail. Of course he knew what he saw. But how would he confess that he surrendered to his inner demon? Where would he find the strength to tell her that when Severa died in his arms he let the darkness inside him kill his best friend and her? Robin couldn't possibly find the strength to answer those questions.

"There is absolutely no need to discuss this right now Lucina. What we should do is head back to our camp and celebrate our discovery, while though we'll be finishing with leaving. The *Valley* awaits us," he replied. Lucina agreed and the two started to take the road back to their friends.

When they returned to the camp they surprisingly found their comrades gathered together, as they were spectating an event. Robin curious to find out what was going on he got closer. He felt his heart racing and was shocked to see Owain and Severa fight.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 7: Soul of Darkness

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! It's good to be back. I know this chapter had a big turn of events, but **please don't spoil it in the reviews for our other fellow readers.** Sorry if it felt a bit short, its because it is being read alone and not in continuity with the previous one, but nonetheless I hope you liked it :) In our next one Shepherds will finally take the road to the Valley.

-Replies to recent reviews:

HutchMcDavish and fellow Guest. (For Guest) I'm undeniably delighted to hear that the previous chapter made your day. It feels rewarding for me and a step closer in achieving my dream. So... about Polygamy... ehm... All I can say is that the "skeleton" of the story is already determined and thus the final pairings. If you meant polygamy as "Robin has two dames at the same time" (three including Nah :P) then (sorry if I disappoint anyone) but no. I never had that in mind. But if you meant that Robin might felt affection for both of those two dames then yes. What will happen from there? Just trust me with the story ;) Like I said earlier "it's the journey that matters, not the destination."

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time (Next chapter 6th of August -it's final), please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

I had a small problem with this particular review from a fellow Guest... I tried to remove the spoilers, but in the end I redirected it here:

(Contains Spoilers)

Guest:

This chapter made my heart race so much even though at the end it was just an illusion . And thank goodness you ' re not doing polygamy that would be terrible . Anyway great chapter and can ' t wait for the next update .

Chapter 20: Chapter 8: The Valley

The Valley

When they returned to the camp they surprisingly found their comrades gathered together, as they were spectating an event. Robin curious to find out what was going on he got closer. He felt his heart racing and was shocked to see Owain and Severa fight.

The young mercenary held her katana tight, while she wiped the sweat from her forehead. She looked tired, breathed fast, but heavily and seemed not be able to continue. On the contrary, the vibrant swordsman, while he looked exhausted as well, was eager to continue training.

"Stop!" Robin shouted as he ran at them. The tactician wanted this fight to end. He wanted not to make his nightmares come true. As soon as he got closer to them he approached Severa and right out of the blue he spread his arms and gave her a warm hug, surprising everyone. Robin felt he needed to do so, because you don't know what you have, until it's gone. He suffered in that dream. He let his dark side take control, but he learned that he had one, which was important as it explained some of his recent strange acts. However, could those illusions turn out to be true? Did they ever resembled reality or just his subconscious?

"What's the matter with you? Let me go!" Severa yelled annoyed. She pushed Robin back and gave him an angry glare. Robin, on the other sighed and smiled.

"Robin! Are you alright?" Lucina curiously asked. She got closer to Robin and held him from his back.

"Hey Rob! Did something happen?" Owain asked too.

The tactician shook his head feeling that he should explain himself. "Everything is good," he replied warmly.

"My tent now!" Lucina ordered him sensing that something wasn't right. The two left their comrades wondering what happened. Nah stared at Severa. The mercenary shrugged her shoulders in response and told Owain to continue.

"Robin are you alright? The first thing you did when we came back was to prevent Owain and Severa from their training," Lucina questioned him seriously this time.

"Lucina I'm fine. I honestly don't know why you made such a big deal out of it," he said while he exhaled. The tactician told the half-truth. He was relieved to see Severa alive, training with his friend, but wanted to know more about his darkness inside him. His previous actions were something more than a mere instinct. He cared for her, even if he tried to deny it. Faking a smile again he tried to hide that emotion from Lucina.

"Robin, I'm really tired of asking this question, but I need to know. What did you see in your nightmare?" She asked desperate to get a clear answer. "I want to help you Robin. Since we entered the temple you've been acting weird. Is it because of your fears?" Robin couldn't hide anymore. It was the time for him to confess what he really felt and what he feared. He thought that indeed by discussing about it something good would happen.

"Ok. If that's what you want to do," he said. "In my dream, we returned back to the camp and found Owain training against Severa. Suddenly, though, Owain got carried away from the fight and delivered her a deadly hit. I tried to do something… Help her with Brady, but even his staff wasn't enough. She died in my hands, Lucina. And I swear this dream looked so damn real, unlike anything I've ever seen, just like inside the temple," he continued. His expression was full of guilt and sadness.

"Robin…" The young lord murmured.

"And then, I lost control. I saw the blood in my hands. I… I… became what I always feared of becoming. I tried to punish Owain from what he did, but you stepped in to save him. A brave but pointless action, since I…" He didn't have the strength to finish his words. He felt like something took his breath away, just as he was about to complete his sentence. "The nightmares get worse Lucina. And you saw me how I acted against Noire or Morgan. Next time I might hurt you," he continued.

"We've already made this discussion Rob. You won't hurt me or anyone," She reassured him.

"And why's that?" He silently asked.

"Because I know you're a good person. It may sound strange, but from the moment I found you on the village I knew there was something special about you. It was a mere hunch, but it proved correct. You risked your life to save me on so many times and you still would. And the way you reacted to Severa's death meant that you held feelings for her and any of your comrades. I don't care how you became that strong. I don't care about your past. I care about our future. And together we can change it. So forget about what you see once and for all and let's focus on what actually happens. About our next destination."

"I understand," Robin replied with a cold tone. As he was feeling the cold inside his soul, Lucina's words made a dim, warm light appear within him. She would always make him feel that way. As he embraced the positive aura, he was inspired to work to solve the next riddle. "Thank you Lucina, for everything," he smiled and gently took the map. He stared at it with caution. It fascinated him with its vibrant golden-like color. He closely observed the drawings in it, which included the places, the different landscapes and the small details. On the part where the word *Valley* was written he read the riddle for one more time.

"Over fire and over land, over seas and sand, shining like the sun's light, or like the moon that shine's at night. Under the sacred ring, right where I conquered the king, you'll find me die, or at least you'll try."

"The word try must indicate our action to find the next sphere. But in order to do so, we must *try* to *kill* someone or something, as indicated by the word die," he thought, but still had a lot to figure.

"Personally, I don't believe that every word of it must make sense. We must find those key words and prepare ourselves," she told him.

At that moment Robin looked at the map again. This time he focused only on their next destination, the *Valley*. Something particular caught his attention. Close to there the tactician observed a strange symbol. It was black and closely resembled a dragon. "Could it be?" He thought.

"What is it Robin? Did you find something?" She asked.

"Lucina look. Right here is supposed to be the Valley right? Well judging from this symbol here it might be a Dragon Valley."

"Hmmm… I know about a Wyvern Valley and that's in Valm. So, you're saying that the Valley will be filled with dragons, if not wyverns?"

"Pretty much. Gerome could enlighten us on this one. I know about only one Wyvern and that was about to set me on fire…"

"No you're wrong. Back at the village Minerva did the exact opposite. It hesitated to even move when she got close to you."

"Oh…" Robin said and paused. As the two were sitting inside their tent, the sun's golden ray laminated the room. He understood that the sun was setting and that it was time for the night's darkness to fill the land. The tactician decided that it he should rest as well. Before he could say anything he saw Lucina holding the Azure. The young lord cautiously put it in its case.

"We did it," Robin smiled as he approached her. "It was a small step in a lengthy road," she reluctantly responded.

As the sun had set, Robin then got up thanked her for her support and previous words, wished her good night and stepped his way out of the tent.

When he went outside, Robin got a look at the night sky and the darkness that surrounded him. The tiny twinkling stars looked like small dots on the inky canopy. "This day had everything," he said and decided to head back to his tent and rest. The dim light provided by the bright moon and stars lightened his way back. As he was walking his way there he was calmed by the night's quietness. He was only listening to the sound of his boots hitting the ground. Everyone seemed to have returned in their tents too and sleep, except from those who had the duties of night watch.

"Psst!" Robin heard out of nowhere and was caught off guard. To his surprise he saw his friend Owain appearing from the dark.

"Hey Robin! I knew I would find you close to Lucina's tent. Don't tell me you're actually going to sleep?" Owain said in his own energetic way.

"Ehm… You know I thought I was," Robin tried to explain he needed rest, but the swordsman insisted.

"Rob tonight is going to be legendary. During the night guard we will gather around the fire and have a good time. There will be Inigo, Brady and me," he said looking impatient.

"I guess I can't do otherwise." Robin sighed and followed the young myrmidon. Before he knew it Robin found himself sitting around the fire with the other three discussing for all sorts of things. At that time, Robin saw next to Brady his mysterious case. He looked overprotective with this case and it seemed important. Robin was so curious he had to ask what was inside. The priest smiled and kindly responded: "It's my violin."

"And how did you learn to play it?" Robin asked amazed.

"I was very young when I started. My mother insisted on training me to become skilled in noble pursuits. It included horseback riding, proper etiquette and practicing the violin. Well, I hated all of it. But at one time, my parents and I went to see a live concert. I remember it like it was yesterday. It took place on this huge building; there was this amazing chandelier full of candles, which lightened the stage. Only the elite could witness such an event. Even king Chrom was present that night. The fellas that performed were part of the royal orchestra. If you were one of them you had everything; fame, money, everything. Anyway, as I was listening them play I felt weird, like I couldn't breathe. The majestic sound of the violin carried me away. I hadn't heard anyone playing that good. The crowd even cried at their performance including me. From that moment I fully devoted in reaching that level. But…"

"But what happened?" Robin immediately asked.

"Brady got these pretty scar on his face," Inigo interrupted. Brady gave him an angry look and continued.

"But while I was practicing somehow one of the strings snapped and cut me in the eye. This injury got pretty badly later so I dumped practicing it and the other nonsense ma' was trying me to do. Eventually it gave me this scar, which scared the ladies away."

"You don't need a scar for that," Inigo murmured.

"Shut it Inigo! Ya're the womanizer here who ten out of ten times gets rejected," Brady furiously yelled.

"Just because you don't know how many women got charmed by me, doesn't mean that I'm getting rejected," Inigo said and winked.

"Paaah ha ha ha…" Brady and Owain laughed their heads off, causing Robin to be in an awkward silence.

"But for the record the true womanizer here is… Robin!" Inigo said and pointed at the tactician.

"Wha-What do you mean?" The tactician said and blushed. "I knew from this night nothing good would come up." He thought.

"Oh, come on don't play it fool on me. You're obviously infatuated by one of our ladies here. And I dare to say that you like the cold-hearted ones," Inigo winked again, at him this time. Robin didn't know how to respond to this. His face got even redder that Severa's hair and he felt his heart pumping like crazy. But to be honest, even he didn't know if Inigo was right.

"Wha…? That's nonsense, I'm not head over heels for Severa," he desperately tried to explain.

"Who mentioned Severa?" Inigo winked at him again with a weird grin on his face.

"Would you stop doing that?" Robin yelled annoyed.

"Wait there Inigo, Robin might be right on this one. I'm willing to bet anything that the one that stole his precious heart must be… our lord," Owain said, causing the others to giggle.

"Oh come on Owain, you know that's not true," Robin said.

"How's so Rob? Ya two spend days together. But we want to warn you pal. Just don't," Brady told him.

"Yeah, that's true," Inigo confirmed. "She rarely smiles and since Ylisse's fall she's devoted herself to restore peace that even neglects herself. We've tried to calm her down, but our actions never seem enough. She would never let herself fall in love. As for Severa she will never open to you or anyone, no matter how many hugs you give her," he continued and laughed heavily.

"Yeah Rob, what was that? Everyone was just shocked, especially Nah." Brady informed.

"Ehm… It's a long story… But I acted instinctively. I had just seen a weird illusion from the ponds water…"

"You drank from the pond again? Why would you do that?" Owain asked confused.

"I had that crazy idea that the Azure gemstone we got from the temple could purify it and then we would refill our water supplies. I volunteered to test if we succeeded and for my bad luck had an illusion. In it Severa died in my hands, so you can imagine how relieved I felt when I saw her alive again," he calmly responded.

"Still Rob. That doesn't explain the hug. If she meant something real to you, you would actually do that," Owain said. He was right, after all. Robin was still uncomfortable with this conversation and had to switch subject.

"And Brady… When did you got back to practice the violin?" He asked ending the awkwardness he felt.

"Actually, I never let it. I always had this dream of performing in a huge stage. Only musicians and dancers are able to do so," he informed. "When I play the violin I feel like I'm separated from the world. I can't hear anyone, or talk to anyone. When I played all of my fears and worries leave me and I find peace again."

Robin couldn't but be amazed by the priest's words. Then Brady cautiously opened the case with care. He got out the string instrument. It had strings made of catgut and wooden neck and body. With his soft fingers he stroked the organ with such care like he was stroking the finest animal fur. And then he held and positioned it. He held the bow and began playing it.

Robin's heart filled with emotion as he heard the wondrous tune spilled out into the night's air by the bow graciously gliding across the strings. To Brady, it was more than a song. It made Robin feel such emotion that he and the others could barely handle to listen to it's marvellous sound. He felt like he understood Brady's feeling by the melody, which graced his ears.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! First things first, please don't spoil the story in the review section. Let's respect those who haven't read the story :)
Oh... boy... I know what you'll say... "J.D.! You said 3-4 of August! What happened?" Truth is fellow readers that I suffered from a huge writer's block. It happens... But nevertheless I was also infected by a DNA-virus which made me suffer from a skin disease as well. This got me down for a while and I wasn't feeling good or inspired to write. Thankfully, I feel better now and when I wrote this chapter and reminded myself why I enjoy writing so much. That's why this chapter is a "Jumbo" size one (always compared to previous ones). I promise all the action return in the next one as our team will reach the Dragon Valley and face something that you might remember from one previous chapter...

-Replies to recent reviews:

-NoNameAvailable Bis: Thank you for reviewing! I'm glad you find this story interesting. As you saw yourself no single event in this story is left unnoticed or without a reasonable explanation behind it. I believe that anything on a story must be based on logic, so I try to limit the plot holes to zero. So you know that Robin's presence in this timeline is very important, as well as how he got here in the first place. That's all I can say for now... :) I hope you enjoy the story and stick until the end.

-HutchMcDavish: I thank you for your kind words. It's always a pleasure to hear good comments.

-and fellow Guest (the one with the 2 comments): Thank you for reviewing. Hmmm you have to trust me on this one. I've already thought of every possible outcome of the story, which will leave everyone satisfied. :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Chapter 21: Chapter 8: The Valley (II)

Valley (II)

Robin remained silent and took a closer look at his opponent. He gripped the hilt of his practice sword and prepared himself for combat. It was time for his usual daily practice, but...

"Oh boy… Why did I accept this?" Before he could finish his thought, he saw Kjelle coming at him with rage. She came with fury and tried a forward attack with her lance. Robin came to his senses quickly enough to dodge the hit with his sword. "Damn it. I should also have the weapon disadvantage. That's enough Robin, Focus!" The knight blocked Robin's attack with ease and used her lance to push him away.

"Go Rob!" Owain cheered. "Go Kjelle!" Inigo then said, causing Owain to look at him in a slight angry way.

"What?" Inigo asked surprised. "You're absolutely hopeless. You can't leave your womanizer attitude away for even a second. Kjelle is being Kjelle and tests Robin's skills for the first time. If we don't support him he might end up…" Inigo then interrupted him.

"Relax. This is just a practice battle. Don't make such fuzz about it. Go Kjelle!" He smiled towards her. Owain sighed and continued to watch their fight.

"At least their using practice weapons. How did we even persuade Kjelle to use them?" Yarne asked curious.

"We didn't. These were the only weapons lying around here. She found Robin and immediately asked him to spar with her," Owain explained.

"Why don't you attack me back Robin?" The knight asked. "She's right. If I keep defending it will get me nowhere. Plus, she can't seem to get exhausted. Hmmm… She even wears this heavy armor and relies on brute force... That's it!" Robin thought.

"And… Rob wins," Owain told Inigo with a smile of satisfaction on his face.

"What? The fight isn't over yet and he hasn't made any serious attack," Inigo said hoping the swordsman was wrong. "Look at his face. It lit up instantly. If I didn't know him, I would say that's nothing, but for Robin that means that he has found a winning strategy," he explained.

And he was right. At once, Kjelle rushed at the tactician with her lance. She was aiming on using her power to by-pass Robin's defense and knock him down. Then with the use of her long lance she would immediately aim on his throat. That wasn't the case. As she was coming at him she tried to attack with all of her strength. Robin who understood what she would do, once the time was right he evaded her hit and attacked from behind, which resulted her falling on the ground. The sound of the metal hitting the ground was the sign of her defeat. Robin quickly immobilized her by pointing his sword at the back of her neck, as he had planned.

"… I yield. You win Robin," The knight told him. "`I challenged you to test your skills Robin, I even thought of you as a craven for not accepting immediately, but you proved me wrong."

"You're a truly talented fighter Kjelle, but your strategy is frail. You rely too much on brute force and it can easily be turned against you, just like this time. I won only because I knew your weakness; don't forget I've seen you fight. However, a skilled opponent will understand it too and it will be the last time you'll ever be able to yield again," Robin informed her. He was relieved that their fight was over and that they would continue their journey towards the Valley.

"Fascinating match."

"Hey! Look who feels better today!" Yarne said with a cheer. The young mage greeted his comrades and friends. He could walk with more ease, but the wound in his chest would still hurt.

"It looks like Robin found out about Kjelle's weakness on their first game. Fascinating indeed," Laurent murmured.

"Laurent!" Robin yelled and rushed to meet his friend.

"How are you feeling today?" The tactician asked curious. The mage was eager to respond. "I'm surely better than yesterday. Brady's staff did wonder's, as expected of course. However, the place of my injury sometimes still hurts. So, do you feel any better? I heard you had a bad dream again."

"It's good to hear you're getting better. And yes I'm feeling great today, as I had fun yesterday night," Robin responded calmly and was about to go to pack his last things before leaving for the Valley.

"Robin wait," Laurent urged too tell him. "I should apologize for my behavior yesterday. You wanted to help and I was mad due to being injured. You were right. Noire isn't our enemy. Her demon is," the mage admitted.

"I'm glad we share the same idea on this subject. I'll catch up with you guys later," Robin said, waving his hand and left.

After a while the Shepherds were back to business in saving the world. It was time for them to leave the temple and the cursed pond in order to reach the dragon valley. This would be their final destination before heading to meet again with lady Tiki. The journey wasn't as long as their previous one. They spent half the time needed to get there. The Shepherds walked several miles of distance until they began sensing that they were getting closer and closer to the next gemstone.

"Halt everyone!" Gerome ordered. The wyvern rider was atop Minerva watching the skies like Cynthia with Sumia next to him.
"What is it Gerome?" Lucina asked curious. The rider had paused on the air without making a single move. He then raised his arm and confirmed that they had indeed reached their next destination, the Dragon Valley. They only had to go down the hill. In front of them a barren land with little trees or even green expanded. Robin was amazed by how sad the place looked and how beautiful it could have been without Risen's interference. Also, he made out some black figures on the horizon, as well as many small wyverns flying over the valley.

"Now where do we go? I hardly see any temple," Nah told Robin. As they stood close to the hill's end, they heard Cynthia coming from above. She ordered her Pegasus to land and the elegant animal obeyed its master. When it did the knight got down and approached her sister.

"Any weird sightseeing? Something that could resemble a temple?" The young lord asked with curiosity. Her face looked pale, as she was exhausted from their travel.

"Nope. All I saw was dragons. I guess that's why it's called the dragon valley. Hehe," she giggled. Robin thanked the Pegasus knight and asked her one last question. "Did you spot any black figures maybe, or shadows resembling men?"

"Uhhhm… not really, no," she shook her head. "Aright." Robin thanked her. He turned to Nah and told her that since there weren't any clues as to where the next stone might be they should check the map again. Lucina took out the wooden case from her bag, opened it and spread the map on the ground.

"Over fire and over land, over seas and sand, shining like the sun's light, or like the moon that shine's at night. Under the sacred ring, right where I conquered the king, you'll find me die, or at least you'll try."

"It's over fire and land." Nah noted. "Yes, and the fact that it mentions try with die means that we should kill someone or something to get it," Robin added.

"Fire could mean the wyverns and dragons. They can breathe fire right?" Nah asked rhetorically. Lucina nodded. "I believe we should be looking at something that is shiny and above the dragons, something circular, thus the ring," she said. Robin then took the word, "Since the gemstone is undeniably precious and legendary, we should be thinking of how we would hide it. Remember how the map was cleverly placed. So… where would I hide such treasure?"

"I believe the question is who should guard it," Inigo said. "We should be looking at the place where most dragons live. Then, because there are lots of them, we know that they're indeed guarding something," he continued.

Lucina then turned her head on the sky and shouted at Gerome. She ordered the wyvern rider to get down to them and inform them if he, this time, spotted anything odd on the valley's creatures behavior. The rider gently touched Minerva's neck as a sign of his order. The dragon that understood perfectly the son of her first master flapped her wings and lost height. When the wyvern touched ground her master got down and approached his lord.

"Yes, I did," the masked man responded positively. "I noticed a strange pattern at some of the wyvern's flights, like they were flying around a circle, with the center being there," he said and pointed at the spot.

"The sacred ring?" Nah asked. Robin shrugged his shoulders in response. "Probably," he added.

The Shepherds continued their road to reach the entrance of the valley and get closer to the dragon's circle. The walked for hours until they reached the bridge that connected the Valley with the outer world. It was a long one, built by large specially crafted wooden pieces side by side, which created a small road. From each side there were two thick and strong ropes for safety. The bridge's width was enough for a person to safely cross it. They walked one by one to make

sure it wouldn't fall apart, due to their huge overall weight. While the tactician was trying to pass it as well, he couldn't do anything but look down. The sight was frightening and seemed like there was no end to it, due to the bridge being built so higher from the ground. "Imagine falling from here," he thought.

After crossing the bridge they had officially arrived at the Valley. The endless dark brown land spread in front of them with the dead trees looking like corpses covered it.

As they walked Robin's boots made strange sounds like something cracked under his feet with every step he made. He ducked and tried to see what was the deal with it. He noticed that on the dry ground there were some sparkling sand-like crystals.

"It's salt. Which, to be honest, shouldn't be that impressive. Salt is the best material to make a land truly barren. Whoever is responsible didn't just burn this place, but also ensured that nothing will blossom here, now or ever, in the distant future," Laurent explained to him. "It's a shame that something such precious would be used for the destruction of the environment," Laurent told Robin.

"That would also mean that Risen have already passed from here," Owain noted. "But surprisingly they didn't kill the dragons," he added.

"They don't need to. Dragons and wyverns can reproduce here, due to the fact that they are so many and thus newly born dragons or older can be collected for Grima's aerial forces." Laurent explained. Robin felt odd with Laurent's last sentence, like something didn't quite add up. He turned at his lord and murmured her his fears. "I have a bad feeling about this. Something is wrong," he told her worried.

"What do you mean?" She asked curious. "I don't know, but something feels… weird," Robin said. The young lord told him that they should better stay alert in case anything happens.

The Shepherds continued walking towards the dragon ring, with the two riders flying above them. However, as they did some wyverns and dragons noticed their presence and approached them. The legendary creatures flapped their wings rapidly and approached them in fury.

"Eeeek! We've been spotted!" Yarne cried in fear and rushed behind Kjelle and her sturdy armor. "You coward!" She yelled at him annoyed and looked at Lucina. The lord hadn't lost her temper and shouted at Gerome. The masked man understood her words and quickly ordered his beast to fly close to his comrades. Minerva opened her large mouth and gave a terrifying roar. The dragons slowed down, but continued moving towards them. As they did Robin felt his head aching. His pain immediately spread to his body and he fell on the ground.

"Robin!" Nah screamed. His friends urged to help him get back at his feet, but the beasts continued their approach.

"Brady! Take care of Robin," Lucina ordered him at once. The priest got closer to Robin and tried to figure out what happened to him.

Lucina took a deep breath and told her comrades with determination: "Shepherds, it looks like we don't have any other choice. We have stand up and fight!"

By the time she finished her words, the dragons and the wyverns had reached them. They were two dragons at the size of Minerva and three wyverns smaller than her. Lucina waited calmly and quietly to see what they would do.

As Robin was still in pain he fell on the ground again. At that moment the tactician felt a tremendous power flow through his body. The earth shook fiercely. The earthquake was so strong that the dry land started to crack under them. No one was able to maintain their balance and helplessly hit the ground with force.

"What in the world?" Inigo said in fear. His body was shaking and his eyes were rapidly moving. Suddenly, the earthquake stopped and Robin's headache as well, although, the creatures were still towards them.

"What… What did just happen?" Yarne asked. The taguel's hands were trembling from the shock. Lucina turned at him and responded: "Vert happened."

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! How you've been? I apologise for the short chapter, it's really late for me (I even slept above the computer :P) and I thought that a short chapter is better than none... I hope I update again

tomorrow (not a week later) and create a big action-packed and satisfying chapter that will be nice to read. Stay tuned :) [Update: I finally got time to review and edit this chapter :) Enjoy]

-Replies to recent reviews:

-Plegian-king-Robin or Daraen-dragmire: It's good hearing from you again :) Haha I guess there's only one way to find out...

-HutchMcDavish: Thank you for your kind words. They really made my day. I try hard to create quality chapters and change your mind about the "average-story" part... :) There's a great action scene coming up with the next chapter which I believe readers will fins it satisfying.

-and fellow Guest: Like I said above, I guess there is only one way to find out... :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors (Especially this time since I stayed really late to finish it... busy day :/). No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Chapter 22: Chapter 8: The Valley (III)

The Valley (III)

Important notice: To those who read the last chapter, please view it again from the second half, as I have edited it and added 600 more words in it. Thanks.

"What… What did just happen?" Yarne asked. The taguel's hands were trembling from the shock. Lucina turned at him and responded: "Vert happened. It can't be a mere coincidence, but the doing of the earth's gemstone, Vert".

Robin immediately noted: "Then there are two possible scenarios. One, somebody controls the sphere as we speak. Two, it can unleash its power on its own."

As they spoke the dragons approached them. Their intentions were anything but kind. Lucina, having seen her enemy from afar drew her Falchion and prepared herself for battle. The others did too. The beasts roared as they made a step closer to the Shepherds, pressing their fearsome feet on the dry ground.

"Wait! Are we sure we want to do this? I mean the beasts can be tamed right? What if they're the guardians of the sphere and test us?" Laurent commented. Either way he was already holding a fire tome at his hand, just in case he was wrong. Gerome, who was close to them, immediately told his comrades, in an assertive tone, to fight back.

"What did you find Gerome?" Nah asked curiously. The masked man who had just landed responded: "Their eyes."

"Huh?" Nah did and looked straight at the dragons' heads. She quickly noticed something strange about their eyes. They were glowing red with no iris, something that wasn't possible. "What in the world have we come up against?" She asked while her heart started beating fast from fear. The red hooded girl dug her hand deep in her scarlet circular bag. She sighed. Although deep inside her she feared of the beasts she tried to suppress her negative emotions and put a brave smile on her face, a smile that would give her chances of surviving and protecting her friends. Robin who was closer to her, now could barely stand up on his own. Although he struggled he told her: "Gerome is right… Look around you. This is a barren land for years. How can live exist here when there's nothing for animals to eat? That's why the existence of those dragon's bugged me."

"So you're saying somebody sent them? Nobody knows we're here!" She said with a surprise smile on her face. Robin shrugged his shoulders and tried to hold a tome on his own. Nah along with Gerome soon spread the word to the others.

"The legendary swordsman against the army of the Risen dragons! My sword hand is twitching! Come on Mysteltainn, destiny beckons!" The vibrant swordsman burst from excitement. The mercenary next to him yelled at him annoyed and calmed him down. Soon the Shepherds under Lucina's commands created an attacking formation. They were divided into two lines. In the first one there were Lucina, Gerome, Cynthia, Laurent, Owain and Kjelle. In the second row there were the rest of the Shepherds. Nah stood close to Robin and helped him with his moves.

The beasts were twenty meters away from them. In front of the lord's eyes the two large dragons started to expand their wings. They had dark leather skin, which looked sturdier that of the finest sword's tip. The dragons had a large head with two horns on each side and shard teeth that would make Owain's sword jealous. They didn't have arms though. Their hands were at the top of the large wings. While the wyverns decided to fly, the two dragons remained on the land and a light from their belly appeared. "It's coming…" Lucina thought nervously. "Shepherds! Now!" She ordered and her comrades rushed to fight the beasts.

"Minerva! Let's go!" The masked man shouted at his best friend and soon they got high enough to face the wyverns.

"I trust you Sumia. You and me together forever!" The young Pegasus knight murmured to her trusty animal. The Pegasus responded with a whinny. Cynthia held her steel lance in her right arm and decided to face the wyverns immediately.

"Don't worry Nah, I'll protect you," Robin smiled at Nah. The young manakete giggled. "That's my job, remember?" She said and pulled from her bag a bright green stone. Robin was amazed by its dazzling gleam.

Soon their battle began.

Lucina urged in the front line to face the dragons along with Laurent. They fought side by side, like they had paired-up for

that battle. The lord tried to find the beast's weak spots with a quick glance. She slashed quickly delivering two blows on the dragon's foot, before Laurent tried to finish their battle with strong wind magic. What Lucina understood was that the beast's skin was not only as hard as for only the Falchion to cut through it, but also that it resembled any other Risen's. Although she had cut the dragon's right leg, the beast didn't feel even the slightest pain. Instead it's belly lit up and Laurent casted a wind spell in response. A terrifying wind tried to bow the dragon away. It lost its balance and fell on the ground creating a loud sound. Lucina, who was anticipating its fall, was already close to the dragon and without hesitation decapitated the monster, ending its life.

Moments before Lucina killed her beast, close to her and the mage, Owain along with Kjelle fought their dragon as well. The knight held her sturdy armor with ease and provided support to the swordsman. She was holding a steel lance, which wasn't particularly heavy and improved her flexibility. Owain saw the fire, coming out from the beast's chest, heading to the neck. He immediately warned Kjelle for the dragon's attack. The Shepherds, who were behind them in the second line, saw the dragon preparing its next attack too. Robin immediately felt like he someone pulled the rug from under his feet and was at a complete loss. He froze staring the fearsome dragon trying to launch fire and burn alive his two friends.

At once, the manakete held her dragonstone tight. It started to glow intensively, and so did her body. Robin couldn't believe what he was seeing. The young girl's body was embraced by pure light. Her comrades instinctively closed their eyes, because the light was too strong. Two luminous petals that had the same bright pink color as her eyes cloaked Nah's body. For a second the valley was field with bright white light, as when a thunder strikes the land. Then, a noise, which sounded more like an explosion, was heard and the petals were gone. All that was left was the jaw-dropping view of a fuscia dragon. She had thin arms and legs that had sea-foam green circular membranes under them. Her wings were thin as well, without wing fingers, only with the same bright membranes like her limbs. Lastly, her head was fuscia colored as well, and her eyes were mint green. Without wasting even a second, Nah opened her large mouth and instantly attacked with a fireball on the Risen dragon, right before it could attack. The beast roared in response and used its wings to blindly attack its surroundings.

Kjelle, who had taken cover alongside Owain prepared their next attack. Kjelle took a glimpse of the dragon's movement. "That damned dastard," she murmured. Owain surprised to hear her couldn't remain speechless. "What is Kjelle? Are you alright" He quickly asked curious to find out what happened to her.

"It's the dragon! I know how to kill it. Robin was right," she revealed. Owain didn't respond, but recalled her fight with Robin. He smiled and nodded. Kjelle then heard Lucina screaming from determination as she cut her dragon's head. The knight understood that it was her turn to act the same. She shouted at Nah to aim for the dragon's wings and the manakete listened. The dragon was hit again, stopped its wing attack and furiously tried to respond. Its belly lit up for another time hoping that this time it would let the fire out of it. Soon the dragon saw Kjelle coming towards it. It turned its spiky neck and moved it close to her. Due to its relatively large size the dragon focused on hitting her only and rushed at the knight. It used its brute force to strike Kjelle and leave her on the ground forever. The dragon was a few steps away from her, lowered its head and expanded its neck to reach her. The knight gulped after witnessing the fire burning under the beast's rough skin, but opted to bravely attack it as well.

"Now Owain!" She screamed and as the dragon's head was only a couple of meters away from her. The knight started running left from the dragon. The beast was too large to change direction in just a second. Thus, Owain, screaming, jumped from behind and sliced the dragon's neck with a blow. At once the beast turned into ashes and disappeared out of thin air. The two comrades sighed from relief, but the fight wasn't over.

Up in the air, Gerome and Cynthia fought for their lives as well against the three wyverns. Fortunately, Gerome was close in defeating one of the three wyverns, but Cynthia had to deal with the other two. Both riders had been high in the air fighting over the beasts. The Shepherds who didn't engage in battle with the two dragons tried to help the riders by giving them information about the wyverns' movement. Lucina and Laurent reunited with Robin and the others. All of them looked exhausted, but they had to complete their mission. They had to find Vert. Lucina ordered the remaining ground forces to search the land for the "dragon circle", while she checked up on Robin.

"How are you feeling?" She calmly asked. The tactician couldn't respond, because Brady interrupted. "He's fine. He had a pain in his head, but he's better now and-" The priest hadn't even managed to finish his words, when Robin started running away from them. Robin rushed at Nah.

"It's Cynthia! She's in trouble!" She urged to say and got on Nah's back. The manakete, in her dragon form tried to reach with Cynthia. Gerome was too far away to help her, as he was busy with his own wyvern and Sumia, her Pegasus, seemed hurt from her fight. The tactician rialised that it would be impossible for Cynthia to defeat the two wyverns all by herself and he had to act.

Nah flapped her wings with great force to get close to Cynthia and immediately decided to launch a fireball. The wyverns,

due to their smaller size than dragons can maneuver in the air to evade hits. At that moment Cynthia hit with force a wyvern that got close to her. The lance stuck deep inside the beast and she was unable to get it out.

"What! Impossible!" She screamed from terror without being able to understand how the wyvern had survived. Suddenly, Sumia cried from pain making Cynthia losing control of her.

"Noo!" Robin yelled as he watched the wyvern's sharp teeth cutting the Pegasus' flesh on its stifle. The thick dark red liquid oozed out of the wound and streamed down her gaskin, with some droplets falling on the ground.

The first wyvern pushed itself back and Cynthia lost control of her weapon too, which remained stuck on the wyvern's back. Then, the second wyvern let go of the Pegasus's leg and soon Sumia started to lose height. Nah attacked with another fireball and this time the wyvern was just barely able to avoid being hit. Robin then took his own tome of wind out and screamed: "Arcwind!" Immediately after he casted the spell a tornado appeared and fiercely moved towards the two wyverns. As it travelled across the air it carried them away and the wyverns were trapped inside it. Nah flew with might not to get trapped as well and succeeded in it, as she flew away from the tornado. Cynthia though was falling in the ground with great speed as she had lost her consciousness from the shock. Sumia on the other could barely still hold Cynthia on her back and they were separated, while they both were falling above the land. The Pegasus was several seconds away from hitting the ground first.

Nah was close to Cynthia and decided to run after her but Robin urged to tell her not to. As he was riding the dragon's back, he swung over and started to fall as well. As he was diving in the air, he rushed to get hold of Cynthia. Being only some meters above the ground he desperately spread his arms and tried to grab the knight. Robin struggled, but in the end he managed to grab her hand and screamed: "Elwind!"

Sudden gusts of wind were formed using the help of magic. Robin was then able to slow himself down just in time before falling. That didn't mean their landing was easy. Robin hit the ground with his back while protecting the knight from going through the same. While aching from behind robin was relieved to find out that Cynthia was safe in his arms. He slowly touched her next to him and then leaned him head on the ground, looked up in the sky and whispered: "Ouch… Never do that again…" He closed his eyes afterwards. Not from far away the tactician heard shouts and noises like people running at him.

"Cynthia!" Lucina screamed and ran like a bolt to get next to her sister as soon as possible. Robin heard the sound of her boots smashing the remains of the salt on the ground. He faintly opened his eyes only to see Lucina's blue boots and later herself having knelt close to Cynthia. The lord realized Robin saved Cynthia's life and tried to thank him. "Robin… Th-…"

"No. Don't thank me. I did what I should have and I wasn't there alone. So, give Nah the credit for this one," he interrupted her. Then, the rest of his friends started to gather with Laurent and Gerome missing. Before Robin could even ask about those two, Owain explained him that Laurent was assisting Gerome in finishing the last wyvern. The myrmidon helped his friend raise his upper body up.

Robin was relieved that everything was alright, once again, but deep inside him he knew that they didn't even made a step closer to find the gemstone.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! It's truly funny because I thought I could finish this one-two weeks ago. One of the things I hate most is when I can't control my time. At first I thought that I could have deliver it a lot sooner, but life's unpredictable. I'm deeply sorry for the long wait. I apologise again for making you wait.

I really can't thank you guys enough, all of the 71 bros (I prefer "brothers" from followers because you really are). Without knowing it, in this difficult period I'm going through, I always look back at my achievements with this story and in a magical way I feel better. Almost every time I anticipate reviews and always read them. I think that without your support and kind words, none of this would have ever happened. That's why you're like bros to me :) I'm trying my best to make it as much entertaining as possible and make my dream come true; spread some smiles with my work.

Story-wise, I hope I can upload again soon enough. I won't promise a delivery date again, but I'll try my best to upload in the next two days. Also, the "Valley" Chapter is far from over... I believe there will be two more parts... Plus, I'll try to edit this one, because I believe there might be some parts with descriptions that can confuse you... :/

-Replies to recent reviews:

-HutchMcDavish: Thank you for your kind words. I try my best to improve the quality of this story. And it's good to know that we're improving.

I knew that the second part ended abruptly that's why I've edited it and expanded it when I got time. Because I end up writing late at night, I can't always keep myself from falling asleep on top of my computer. I felt that I needed to upload at that time, because I couldn't make you fellow readers wait longer. So, I thought it might be incomplete at first, but now it's exactly as it was supposed to be.

-and fellow Guest: Nope, it wasn't a "filler". More like how I imagine Robin affects his comrades. Due to their battle Kjelle was able to find a way to kill the dragon and save herself. So, if you "connect the dots backwards" you will understand that a lot of things are on purpose, not just for filling a chapter.

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 23: Chapter 8: The Valley (IV)

The Valley (IV)

The tactician felt his back aching from the fall, like somebody had tighten him with a rope and squeezed him until his bones break. Owain stood close to him and was eager to assist him with anything he needed. However, the tactician tried to reach Cynthia. With the help of his friend he got back on his feet and got closer to the knight.

She was still unconscious and thankfully not injured. Robin noticed the expression of her face. Although she was senseless, her look revealed her fear and stress to live. She had lost that signature smile of hers and her soft . The one that had the ability to give hope to the troubled souls of the Shepherds. But now this smile was replaced with an expression of concern and angst, and her soft Spanish pink cheeks were left pale and ivory. Right next to the knight there was her sister along with the priest.

"Her pulse is fine, but I'm afraid this is out of my reach. But don't ya worry she'll wake up," Brady commented. Lucina couldn't do anything but nod at Brady's words. The lord was worried sick for her sister. Her hands were shaking uncontrollably, but got a hold of herself. Robin may saved Cynthia from the deadly fall, but he couldn't also save her spirit, which was lost deep in her sleep.

At that time, the red hooded girl came running. She was in panic and urged to check if Robin was okay, and was relieved with the answer. As soon as she came Lucina started to speak.

"Nah, Robin… Owain, Kjelle, everyone… We've fought bravely so far, but we need to get that gemstone and leave this damned place. We've disturbed the dragons and I'm sure there are more to come," she said in a serious tone. She then turned at the manakete and: "Nah! You were correct about the previous riddle. Please make sure to find the solution as soon as possible! We've wasted so much time with this… And-" she wasn't able to finish her words. The Pegasus knight quickly opened her eyes and tried to get up. Cynthia felt her small scars cut her, but somehow found the strength to pull her body up and stand up, amazing everyone.

Robin saw how nothing of her expression had changed. The Pegasus knight was at a complete loss. She froze for a second and screamed: "Where's is she? Where's Sumia?" Much to everyone's surprise nobody had an answer to give. Her question completely caught everyone off guard.

"Where's she?" The young woman pleaded for an answer. Soon, her dark brown eyes got wet, with some droplets falling on the salt ground. Everyone lowered their heads and remained silent.

"You were all watching! H-How couldn't you see her?" She said with tears running down from her pale face.

"W-We were watching… You and Robin skydiving…" Inigo faintly admitted. "That was why we arrived here early enough to help," Owain added with a guilty face. The knight burst into tears and found comfort in her sister's shoulder. Lucina tried to calm her down.

"Wait. How couldn't we see her? That's a really good question," Nah noted. "I mean there should have been a sound from the fall, right?" She continued. "That makes sense," the tactician commented. The Shepherds then turned their heads around and looked at the sky and around them.

"Hey! Over there!" Kjelle's keen eye caught something. She pointed at a place a bit far from them. It appeared there was a figure of something resembling a wild horse. At once, Cynthia left her sister and started running at the place where Kjelle pointed.

"No! It can be a dragon! You don't have your lance… Cynthia!" Lucina desperately yelled. Cynthia though couldn't stop. She then ran with all of her remaining strength to reunite with her animal partner. She tried to cross the barren land, while the sound of her leather boots hit the ground and made a signature sound. She ran, with some droplets falling down, without minding anyone or anything.

Of course Lucina couldn't stand there without doing anything. She quickly left Robin's side and chased after her and the others did too.

Robin was one of the last to arrive, because he was still troubled by his back pain and headache. After acting in a complete irrational manner, risking their lives, while under the threat of the dragons and wyverns, the Shepherds found the girl lying on the ground with her arms embracing the white Pegasus. She softly petted her with so much care and love like when a mother looks after her newborn baby. As her hand stroke Sumia's white hair she stained her hands with

her blood and the ground's dust, but she didn't care. The knight used Brady's staff to take care of the wounds. The Pegasus had large and deep cuts around its stifle and had already lost a lot of blood, as much of it already covered the ground.

From the way the winged horse lied with its back on the surface of the earth, the tactician was able to figure out what happened. It appeared that it had survived the fall, due to being able to use its large wings at the last minute to land. However, it couldn't stand on its legs it fell. Now, there were slim chances that it could also survive the dragon's bite.

Sumia cried as she was exposed to the staff's power. Cynthia felt the animal's body getting colder and colder and knew that her recovery spell was working. Thus, she finally stopped shedding any more tears and a faint smile appeared back on her face. Her sister, though, didn't act in the same way. Once she realized that Sumia's life was all right, she ordered again Nah and Robin to work on solving the riddle, but also her comrades to stay alert and contact Laurent and Gerome as soon as possible.

And so Robin got back to what he did best, thinking. Nah gave him a warm smile and approached him, looking excited. This was Robin's last try to figure out the meaning of the riddle. He decided to sit down with the manakete next to him and discuss. He felt different from when he did the exact same thing with Lucina. The woman with eyes of blue made him feel she distanced herself, with only few moments showing him her bright side. Nah although she looked accustomed at controlling her emotions she looked content working with the tactician again.

"Judging from the result, we did splendid," she said cheerful. "We saved Cynthia, Sumia and ourselves," she continued.

"I believe I finished what you started. You might not know it, but without you I wouldn't do anything. So, like I said earlier, this small win is on you."

Nah responded with a smile and said she might have found a solution. Robin told her to go on, but they were interrupted. He heard a voice, like a yell and got up. Much to his surprise he saw Severa staring at them, looking annoyed.

"You need to see this… Gerome and Laurent returned and things aren't looking that good," she revealed.

The tactician didn't understand her words at first, but then got up, easily this time, and looked at Gerome and Laurent. They both seemed troubled and were trembling, especially Laurent, which was untypical of them. Then, he took a look at the horizon and noticed the dragons' movement. It appeared that the creatures began gathering at a certain place. Soon, decades of the mythical beasts formed something that looked like a circle. The Shepherds looked at the sight with awe.

"It's like they're being controlled…" Owain murmured.

Then, once every dragon that lived there gathered they began to flap their wings and fly in a circular motion, forming this time a tornado. Suddenly, the bodies of the dragon's were dissolving and turned into a mix of a dark liquid and black dust. The tornado got thicker and stronger with every second passing. It was so powerful that could cause critical damage and barely didn't uproot the barren trees that filled this land.

"R-Run!" Yarne squeaked. Everyone was about to follow his words, but not a certain someone.

"No. Not again. Not without Vert," she said in a serious tone. "This must be the *sacred ring*! And *we* must do something!"

The Shepherds looked at their lord with respect and will to fight alongside her for one more time. Though Robin's head played games to him. He screamed from pain and strongly held his head with his arms and pressed it to stop aching. He then heard his friends' voices, but suddenly he heard nothing. He couldn't. Robin saw the tornado starting to transform, getting a new shape. However, he felt something like a lighting bolt hit him inside his head and he closed his eyes shut.

When he opened them he found himself floating in a place surrounded by absolute darkness. He couldn't even see his own hands. Then he heard a familiar voice.

"I promised you I would kill her. I would rip her head off. I will make you *suffer*… Unless, you accept your *true* self…"

"M-My… *true* self?" Robin asked dazzled.

"You will soon find out… Now watch me as I *complete* my promise…" The voice faded in the complete dark leaving Robin screaming: "Nooooo!"

When he opened his eyes his pain was gone. He quickly checked his surroundings and found himself on the top of

Sumia. Although the winged horse wasn't able to fly, it could still carry a person. Especially since her leg was completely healed. Robin realized that everyone was running to take shelter, including him.

The tactician then decided to look at his back. He was petrified when with what he saw…

The dark tornado had disappeared. Carrying the souls of decades of dragon's and wyverns, those Risen creatures had now taken a new form altogether. A new devastating form. The form of a new giant dragon, five times taller than Minerva. The creature had fearsome red eyes and black skin that seemed indestructible. It had a long neck and sharp spikes that extended to its spine covered its back. Last, its hands had claws that looked like they could cut though anything with a slight touch.

The beast noticed their presence and locked on exterminating them. It opened its large mouth, revealing its pointy tongue, and instead of breathing fire, it breathed a black cloud of darkness. That cloud began to expand but was only above the ground forming a layer above the solid ground. The layer, rapidly moving like the sea, came towards them. At that point as Robin was staring at the events, his heart skipped a beat when he caught a glimpse of a figure close to the dragon, a hooded man.

The beast, surprisingly stopped moving against them, but let the stream of darkness do what it wanted. Robin after immediately witnessing all these, got down from the winged horse and shouted at everyone to retreat and leave this land immediately. He quickly looked around him and saw the bridge close to them and pointed at it, as their target.

"We have to move to the bridge and leave this place!" He said in complete desperation. The Shepherds though were unresponsive. He then shouted again at them and even yelled at Lucina that everything else they did to counter the dragon was nothing but a suicide.

"Don't you see that if we don't take the stone our hope of saving this world is lost?" Lucina furiously shouted at him.

"Don't you see that you have to be alive to save the world?" Robin shouted back.

At that exact time, his comrades' sense of boldness and braveness were replaced with their instinct of survival. They realized that there was indeed no escape and decided to ran and cross the bridge. Lucina was disappointed and turned her back on them without Robin knowing it. She was determined to get the earthstone.

The darkness waves were still coming towards them. Robin decided to help his friends cross the bridge first, one by one. Then, after urging everyone to cross it he became aware of Lucina's absence, and so did the others.

"Nah!" He shouted. "Make sure everyone crosses the bridge. I'll bring her back," he said and although he felt like he couldn't even walk he ran. He ran to bring his lord back. The manakete simply nodded at the tactician's words, but deep inside her she secretly pleaded him not to risk his life, not to die.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! There are good news and bad news... The good news is that I finally uploaded a new chapter and that I will possibly (no promises) and honestly try to upload again soon enough (= not a week). I had to cut this chapter into smaller chapter in order to upload quickly so I've already written some of the "next" one... But be sure to tell me if you liked this twist of action... :) Bad news is that my problems devoured my time and morale... I haven't completely been cured from my disease, my work is exhausting me... :/ I was left with no real motivation to write and this slowed me a little... But don't worry I'm a man of my word and I will continue to deliver quality chapters as soon as possible. :) In this weird phase of my life I don't know what I would do if I didn't had you, my 73 friends... :/

-Replies to recent reviews:

-Axel: Well... what can I say to such a wonderful review. Your words really touched me, my friend. It is because of such words that I continue to do what I do, in the best way that I can possibly do it. A mere thank you isn't enough. Truth is that the obstacles are looking like the mountain Everest to me... and not only that but when I "cut one head, two more take its place..."
Hmm... If my sad smile...? :/ "[..] If your sad smile and trust [...]"

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 24: Chapter 8: The Valley (V)

The Valley (V)

Robin saw Lucina battling the darkness and immediately shouted at her. He noticed that she had raised her falchion and battled the shadow's formation. The layer got that thick and high that had reached the level of Robin's knee. The tactician quickly casted the spell of "Archfire" and threw a fireball to assist Lucina in her battle. The fireball exploded near her and gave Robin the chance to get closer.

"What do you think you're doing?" Robin shouted at her demanding an answer. "It's pointless to fight the darkness. It's like fighting ghosts. They don't exist!"

Robin was wrong. The stream of darkness that came from the dragon's mouth was dangerous. It could trap them and fulfill the beast's intentions and Lucina had acknowledged that.

"Watch your step Robin! Don't be fooled. I sense the gemstone being near. Watch out!" She then warned. The black cloud underneath them took a shape of a large and long tentacle. Soon, decades of more tentacles appeared in front of them. Robin couldn't believe his eyes. His hands began shaking and he breathed heavily. He instinctively grabbed Lucina from her wrist and started running to reach the bridge. She immediately wanted to pull herself away, though Robin held her tight. She had no other option, but to yell at him.

"Stop it Robin! You're hurting me!" She screamed. Robin paused for a second, unable to hide his embarrassment. Was he too harsh? He thought not. He was trying to save her, because there was no way of finding the gemstone under these conditions. The cloud dragon had turned himself into an endless sea of dark mist and the height of the mist's surface grew higher and higher, even surpassing the level of his and Lucina's knees. And now it had it's own intelligence, as it took different shapes to capture them. But above all, he was afraid of his nightmares' hooded man. Both of them fled and escaped them, giving Robin the chance to talk to her.

"The only things that will ever be found here are our corpses. We need to *escape*. There is no secret tactic or anything that can help us. We didn't solve the riddle, we didn't kill any dragon. You can't defeat a foe that's made of clouds, for goodness sake! Cynthia could've been dead by it and we didn't even kill those freaking wyverns! *There is no way of killing them*!" He shouted. "Just take a look at the ground. You can't even see it because it's covered in this mist. How do I know that in any minute this mist won't attack me? So, I beg you Lucina, think of your life, think of us. Let's just *leave*," Robin said. He ended his small speech emphasizing on the word *leave*. Lucina didn't respond. She remained silent and nodded. She had accepted that this mission was a lost cause.

Robin then tried to guide her on their only way out, the wooden bridge. However, there was a small problem. He couldn't navigate himself there, since he couldn't even see the bridge. The mist was calm and hadn't taken any formation, but its level grew little by little. As they were trying to figure a reasonable way out, they decided to head at one direction. They walked for a couple of minutes with Lucina silently following him and at one point Robin turned at Lucina and confessed: "It can't be… I swear on my life, this was my way in. Where is everything?" And at the moment he turned his head at her he saw that she wasn't there. She had disappeared. He was alone.

"No! Not again. T-This… T-This is an illusion. I'll wake after a while on top of Sumia. Yes, that's it!" He couldn't even control his emotions. He was trembling from fear, shock and self-doubt. He kept asking himself, how did he lose her again. Robin desperately shouted her name, begging to hear her voice again. But nothing happened. He then tried to run away, do something that would fix things, but the valley looked like a desert, it had no end. His heart was beating like crazy; ready to explode from his nervousness and felt his head completely lost.

Robin with all of his remaining strength tried to seek for an answer and find his lord. He screamed, walked, but everything seemed the same and like time had stopped. Suddenly, as he was walking, he tripped and fell on the ground. While he was falling, he saw the light behind him fading away, as the darkness of the clouds devoured his spirit.

The tactician felt the sturdy and dry ground knocking him and he tried to get up. When he did he saw a figure standing in front of him. It was the hooded man of his dreams.

"So, we meet again… *Morgan*," he tried to calmly say. The man remained speechless and had his hood on. You couldn't see his actual face or what he wore underneath his robe. His clothes and dark clouds were in a perfect match.

"*I made you a promise,"* The man whispered. Immediately, after he ended his words, Robin felt like somebody had stuck Severa's killing edge straight through his heart. He was in pain emotionally. And for the first time he could remember, his eyes started to get wet. His hand was uncontrollably shaking and he couldn't breathe. Then, starting from his left, now

red, eye a tear streamed down his cheek.

"No… Please, no. I beg you! *Please*!" He hopelessly pleaded him to show a sign of mercy, but the man was silent and still. He then raised his arm and controlled the darkness in such a way as for another human figure to appear. It was covered in darkness from top to bottom and Robin couldn't make out who that person was, but somehow he knew. The hooded man then raised his sleeve and got closer to the human figure. He wiped the dark cloud from its head, only to reveal Lucina's face. Robin understood she was unconscious, and admired that even in such a state she was beautiful. With her lovely eyes closed, her white cheeks and her perfect falling dark blue hair. Robin shed another tear when he looked at her. Deep inside him he felt he had failed her.

He couldn't keep himself together and sobbed like a small child. "No, I beg you not to do it. Take me in her place, please… Don't…"

The man was emotionless still. Then out of thin air a silver knife appeared in his left hand. He took it closer to Lucina's neck. Robin immediately rushed at him and tried to do anything that would make him stop, but at once the dark cloud beneath him interfered. Long thin tentacles wrapped around his body, legs and arms immobilizing him completely. Robin shouted his name again and pleaded him one more time not to do it.

The man with his right hand's fingers gently touched her neck. *"Look at how soft her skin is… So I finally she her again, Chrom's daughter Lucina…"* He said in an attempt to provoke him. Robin fell in his trap, desperately trying to escape, but surprisingly enough the cloud around his body had become as thick as rock.

"It's fascinating. The way you shout… You move… How desperate are you to save her?" He said moving the knife closer and making Robin madder.

"Stop! Just stop!" Robin furiously shouted. "If only I was free…" He said and tightened his fists. The hooded man giggled at his words.

"If only you were free? I cut you into pieces right now and feed my dragons with your pathetic flesh." He shouted back, annoyed. The man calmed himself down and asked him: *"Does she know about your piteous feelings?"*

Robin looked away from embarrassment, avoiding an eye contact, but unfortunately he revealed that way his affection towards her.

"So I was right. But was I ever this weak to… love? It can't be… You… Oh yes! You must be that fool..." He murmured and got closer to him. He spread his right arm and with his index finger he touched Robin's chest, right above his heart. The tactician felt his chest on fire and screamed from the pain.

"*Oh yes, I can sense the power inside you. Your blood burns as hot as mine, yet the body is weak."* He silently said. *"Answer me this: Are you Naga's last resort to stop me?"*

Robin felt ill, once he heard him. He had no idea what he was talking about.

"I-I honestly don't know... I just woke up in a destroyed village… That's all I can remember. She then found me and I have no recollection of my past. That's all I know Morgan. Please…" He said breathing rapidly and shallow.

The man touched his knife's edge at Lucina's neck. Then he held it from an angle, as he was ready to slice it.

"NO!" Robin shouted again in despair. "Stop! That's all I know. Stop!" He continued screaming with more droplets falling on the dry ground each second. "I'm telling you the truth… Please…"

"I know." He responded. *"Your friend has already told me…"*

"My friend?" He asked confused.

"Ha ha. Remarkable. I was sure that you had started suspecting something."

Robin was unable to follow. "What?" He asked dazzled.

"Enough." The man said in a serious tone. *"It seems that you aren't that much of a threat as I thought you were. I could kill you both now, and those idiots at the bridge, but, you see, when you're killing someone, they never experience pain. Only the ones closer to them do. So your biggest torture is to kill every last inch of this silly emotion of yours, hope. Once, I see the fear in her eyes and her world tearing apart, I will then kill her. Or I have a better idea…"*

Robin stood frozen as he heard the man's monologue. Then, the hooded man began fading, along with the dark clouds.

"And Robin." He said before disappearing. *"I'm a man of my word."*

"Morgaaaan!" Robin screamed in frustration and tried to escape with no luck. When the man's figure completely vanished and Robin was finally free, he heard a final whisper: *"I'm not Morgan."*

Directly opposite of him, he saw Lucina's body ready to collapse and immediately tried to catch it and not let her fall. The dark clouds and mist was now gone. What had left were the remains of dragon's and wyverns, just like before. Robin held her body, relieved that she didn't suffer. Though, the words of the hooded man worried him. There were so many things left unanswered. But comparing them with the safety of his most important thing in the world, everything else seemed trivial. With a quick move he raised her body and lifted it up. And as he saw her, he realized that the man was right. He held feelings for her, but he was sure she didn't.

Robin walked for a couple of minutes, while holding her in his arms, and saw the bridge from far away. The road to there looked clear. However, although the threat of the dark clouds was gone, this wasn't the case with the native dragons. The dragons and wyverns had appeared all over again and even looked more threatening than ever. He didn't care though. The only thing in his mind was to check if his friends were okay, leave this place and plan their next move.

And Robin decided to head there as soon as possible. As he was walking there he felt Lucina slowly waking up. The lord opened her eyes and was left red-faced after she found herself in such position. Robin got that she was awake and faintly smiled at her.

"W-What do you think you're doing?" She asked slightly embarrassed. Her words caught him off guard and he immediately gently touched her to the ground. Lucina gave a quick check on her surrounding and was undoubtedly pleased to find out that the mist was gone.

"I'm amazed! You're out of this world! How did you do it?" She asked enthusiastically. Her face shined as she realized that it would be much easier to find the stone now and make another small step to save the world.

Robin didn't know how to respond. And in just mere seconds a series of thoughts came through Robin's mind.

"Great, now what am I supposed to tell her? That a guy came here, kidnapped her while I was supposed to guard her, threatened to kill her while asleep, but in the end he chose not to because he wanted to she her suffer even more. He wanted to destroy… her soul. Her beautiful pure soul that only seeks after justice and good. He wanted to destroy her hope for a better world. A world with more peace, freedom and… life. I can't say those things to her. But, I can't lie to her either…" He thought while looking pale. Lucina noticed his change of behavior and his red eyes.

"Robin you look… What happened?" She asked puzzled. The idea that Robin might had been cried flashed through her mind, but ruled it out as impossible. On the other, Robin couldn't give her an appropriate answer. He even avoided any eye contact with her. Lucina couldn't understand why he was acting in such a way and tried to ask him calmly one more time. "Robin you worry me. Is everything alright?"
"Lucina…" Robin faintly tried to respond, but something in the horizon caught his eye's attention. Up in the sky flying like the wind there were dragons coming towards them. Though, this wasn't like the last time. The dragons had riders on them and Robin feared the worst. Lucina stared in the same direction as Robin and whispered surprised: "W-We've been compromised!"

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was
Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! Ha! I got you with this one :) I'm glad I was able to upload quickly again. I hope this chapter is good. It had a bit of a climax, but honestly the best are yet to come. In our next one, which probably will come as soon, I will do something a bit different.

Plus, I decided to follow the trend of Polls and post one of my own. I'm experimenting with it and if responses are good I will surely even use it for story purposes... Who knows :P

-Replies to recent reviews:

-Axel: Absolutely no problem and thank you once again for your kind words. :) Heh... I'm happy I broke the "more-than-a-week-curse" and update quickly this time ;)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 25: Chapter 8: The Valley (VI)

The Valley (VI)

I've finally edited the chapter by adding the rest of it. I hope you enjoy it and have fun. The next chapter will be written shortly. Thanks for the understanding. Have a great day everyone ;D
-J.D. King

"Robin! Let me go! Save yourself!" She desperately yelled, as cold tears ran through her white cheeks. Her heart beat fast, because she couldn't remember herself being closer to death. Robin, though, could.

"N-Never…" Robin tried to say in order to calm her down, with his teeth gritted. In the meanwhile his right hand was aching so much that he couldn't even feel it and he started losing hope as well.

"Robin! Let me go! You need both arms to climb! Please…" She cried with droplets falling down to the unknown. Robin knew she was right. And as he was looking upwards he saw the rope stretching more and more, telling him that time was not on his side…

Up in the sky flying like the wind there were dragons coming towards them. Though, this wasn't like the last time. The dragons had riders on them and Robin feared the worst. Lucina stared in the same direction as Robin and whispered surprised: "W-We've been compromised!"

"Impossible…" Robin murmured unable to even comprehend what was happening. At once, in his mind he remembered the words of the man, who he considered as his most dangerous enemy he had ever met, as of now. "*Your friend has told me…"*

"Could it be? And if so who?" He thought, but opted to rule out any scenario of betrayal, because he knew Shepherds' loyalty and that they were his friends, above all else. "No, I won't let him get in my head…"

As the two were standing there he noticed up in the sky the air force's formation. There were three wyverns with riders on them plus one more going on a weird animal. It was Robin's first time of seeing something like it. The beast looked like it was brought out from a fairy tale story, sharing traits of other animals. It had the body and back legs of lion, and head, wings and front legs of an eagle. The look on its scarlet red eye was fierce and it looked thirsty for battle. The flying mount was faster than the wyverns and started to move closer to them. Robin and Lucina were unsure if the riders were form the Arc, or were Risen.

Robin didn't want to waste any more time. He had to get back to his comrades and prepare to fight the enemy. Fortunately enough he couldn't see any ground forces and he still carried his aerial tomes, in order to be ready for every possible battle scenario.

The tactician and his master started running to reach the bridge and catch up with their friends. The interference of the riders caused a massive change of plans for them. While heading back Lucina fully responded to Robin's question about Sumia. He cleverly made such question to avoid being inquired about the previous events.

"She formed a strong bond with her ever since our mother passed away. I know it's silly, but we grew up with the legendary stories of heroes, or our parents' and wanted to be just like them. While I spent a lot time with my father, Cynthia did with mother. Then after father had left the world of living, being betrayed by one of his closest friends…" Robin felt like he had swollen needles and they stung him from the inside. The word *betrayal* echoed in his mind. "… We had arranged to create a lance in order to learn to use more weapons. But mother left for a battle and never returned. One day we saw her mount on the sky and prayed for the best, but it was alone. It proved to be that mother wanted it to guard us even if she… wasn't here." She said and lowered her head.

"Lucina, I would have never asked such a thing, if I knew how sad it was…" He tried to make up for his doing, blaming himself on the inside.

"No Robin. You did nothing wrong. I've accepted the fact that our parents are gone. In addition you have every right to know. You've earned it. As I was saying although I accepted the fact that we were alone in this world, Cynthia didn't. We never talk about that subject, since she's a completely different person when we do. Our mother's death weighed heavily on her. She started training more, made the Pegasus her mount, named it after mother, and tried to become a *hero*."

After seeing both of them appearing in the horizon Nah was moved to she they were all right. She rushed to greet them. The red hooded girl gave Robin a warm smile and showed him who much she cared. Robin put a fake grin on his face. In the back of his mind he had the apparent attack of the beasts and the man's words. Deep inside him he didn't even want to think Nah could ever backstab him. Somehow though by intuition he convinced himself that he was referring to Noire, who literally vanished into thin air, but doubt haunted him, second by second.

"Wow, you literally came back so quickly! Was she that close?" She calmly asked. Robin looked at her puzzled. Since he was gone for longer than an hour, why did she feel it was a matter of minutes? "It must have something to do with him appearing…" He thought.

Without wasting any breath he took a close view to his comrades and along with Lucina explained them the situation. While the threat of the gigantic dragon wasn't on the table, they had to deal with the riders, who drew closer and closer.

Having listened to Robins plan, the Shepherds were dressed together. The vanguard consisted of Robin, Lucina, Owain and Laurent, while the back lines of the others serving as supportive units. As the riders were just a minute away from them, Robin caught a glimpse of Cynthia in the sky. She wasn't told to engage, and he immediately began shouting her to come down. The Pegasus knight obeyed at his words. He knew he shouldn't have yelled, but it was for her own sake. As he watched her being in a perfect sync with her flying mount he understood what Lucina had told him earlier.

The first rider to arrive was the griffon one. The Shepherds saw the beast landing in front of them, at a close distance without any intent to attack. The legendary creature looked even more amazing from a close distance. It flapped its powerful brown wings to safely land on the ground, as it used its keen eyesight to spot them and its The creature opened its large yellow golden beak, which had a semi-circular shape, and made a terrifying roar. The tactician quickly made a step forward and was ready to cast a spell. Then its rider with a quick movement got down from the creature. He was wearing a skull helmet with two big horns, which covered his face. He was surprisingly also wearing a robe, similar to Robin's. The tactician didn't need any more clues. He knew that in front of him was the real Morgan.

The man took his helmet off, revealing his face. Although he was shorter than Robin, his facial features were nearly identical. They even had the same hair color. He held his helmet in his right hand and started to speak. The rest of the Shepherds were amazed by their similarity. Owain tightened his fist and his sword hand started twitching. On the other, Severa scowled at him, without forgetting the scar she got from their last fight.

"Lucina, *Robin*…" He said in an intimidating way. "I haven't forgotten what you did to me... But I'm not her for revenge. I'm here to make a deal."

"We'll never negotiate with you, you…" Robin furiously responded. Lucina moved her arm close to Robin as a sign for him to stop.

"We're listening Morgan," she told him in a cold way. Morgan then continued, having that smirk on his face.

"I will take Lucina back to the Ark so she can be put on a trial, or you give me back your map and I'll leave."

Owain laughed at his words. "And what if we reject your offer?" He asked.

"Then… I will have my *revenge*." Morgan replied calmly, and put a grin on his face.

Owain laughed again. "You're all alone, with only three more aerial units on your side. And we're three times more. How do you think you can get your revenge?" He asked him and gave him an angry look.

"You're wrong, swordsman. Just because you carry the royal blood doesn't give you the right to underestimate your foe." Morgan replied annoyed. He then pointed with will at the fallen exalt. "It's your call," he told her.

Lucina wasn't sure how to respond. She knew how dangerous Morgan could be, but she had to learn his true motives. Before she could even try to announce him her decision, Robin rushed at him and they fell together at the ground with force. The tactician yelled: "Now! Eliminate them!" Thus, engaging in battle. The Shepherds moved as Robin had told them to. Their goal was to bring down the flying units quickly, and focus on the gemstone.

"Fool!" Morgan told him furious. He pushed him away and got up. And so did Robin. The tactician looked the sorcerer in his eyes. He gave him an intimidating look, much like his griffon, which immediately attacked Shepherds' vanguard.

Morgan moved his hand inside his robe and unsheathed his sword. Its color was as black as the rough skin of the native dragons and looked like it was made from pure silver. It reminded Robin of the masked man's sword at the Azure's temple. Without backing down, Robin took out his own sword as well. It was an iron one, not as powerful as Morgan's, but it was lighter.

The sorcerer rushed at him, holding the sword with both of his hands, and began with a forward attack. Robin swung his blade horizontally and blocked the hit. Their swords had locked and Morgan pushed his own forward in order to make Robin knee. The tactician, who had literally rooted his feet on the ground, had started sweating on his forehead. The cold sweat started to tickle down his cheeks. "Gaaah!" He said with his teeth gritted and slowly pressed his sword against Morgan's. Fortunately enough, he found space to slid it and escape from this situation. Moving rapidly, Robin distanced himself from the sorcerer to catch his breath. He felt his heart racing, as he was sure that this battle would be their last.

Morgan swung his sword and took a look at his opponent. He could sense Robin's nervousness. Although, he didn't use his sword often he was keen on using it. Its tip had stung so many innocent souls. Robin, on the other, took a deep breath and decided to focus. Once the time was right, he rapidly took his robe off. The warm, but heavy cloth fell on the earth, revealing Robin's grey shirt. The tactician felt that he needed more speed in order to win. Though, this was a risky move, since Morgan did the exact same thing, but he was wearing a darker shirt.

Robin felt his biceps burning and the soft breeze chilling his forehead and neck. He raised his sword again and waited for his opponent's next attack. Morgan wiped his face and rushed at the tactician. He used his power to swing his blade horizontally and hope to slash Robin's chest, but the tactician moved back avoiding the hit. He then responded with a direct hit, which Morgan blocked, and took a step closer.

The sounds of the two metals hitting each other echoed in the near empty valley. Some of the Shepherds turned their head to witness their fight. The sorcerers, now swordsmen, showed exceptional skills. Robin understood his hard training with his comrades, had paid off. Everything led to this moment. It was a battle of survival. Robin was against a very dangerous man that threatened his friends' safety, but killing him would only seal their fate by making them living on the run and alone, without help from the Ark. And even if he didn't want to admit it, they needed help. On the contrast, Morgan had nothing to lose, only to win. And his impulsive way of fighting troubled Robin and made him wonder, what his true intentions were.

Robin attacked with forward hit, hoping to catch Morgan off guard. The sorcerer blocked it, and pushed him away. Robin found difficult to regain his balance and Morgan immediately ran at him. He took his first step with will and when his second leg touched the ground he jumped at Robin. He brought his sword backwards for better aim. Once he had locked his target, Robin's throat, he unleashed his hand and, like a bolt, moved his sword at the tactician.

Robin was caught completely off guard. Without even realizing it, death was approaching. Robin felt like time had frozen and Morgan's silver blade slowly moved against him. Relying on his reflexes, he opted to completely fall down and roll over, saving himself. Morgan who was displeased with the fact that he had missed his opportunity raised his sword again and tried to finish him, while he was on the ground. Robin saw his opponent angrily coming at him. There was no way to escape this time. No ace to be played. It was death.

Morgan moved his silver blade to sting him in his chest and finish the battle. Robin closed his eyes and waited for the hit. He waited for his illusion to come alive and be swollen from the dark. "I'm sorry everyone," he thought and shed one last tear.

With his eyes closed he listened to an explosion. He quickly opened them only to find that Morgan had disappeared. He took a glimpse at his surroundings and saw a bright pink light shining on him. Then he noticed with relief that his opponent had fallen near on the ground unconscious. The tactician looked amazed at the dragon, as it saved his life from sure death. With a tear of joy running down his cheek he smiled at his savior. He then turned at Morgan again and spotted his absence. Suddenly, he heard the sound of an eagle's cry. The sorcerer had ridden on his mythical mount and flew higher to soar the skies. Robin understood that their battle wasn't over. It had just begun.

The tactician then spotted the dragons gathering and coming near them. At that moment, he was there with Nah. The rest of the Shepherds were already fighting the riders and the newest bunch of dragons that had surrounded them. However, the worst had yet to come. Morgan led the remaining riders and ordered them to move their fight closer to the bridge, pushing their enemy. Showing a remarkable docility the Risen dragons, not only followed Morgan's words but fought even harder. At one point the Shepherds started approaching the cliff and having acknowledged that Lucina shouted at her comrades to press forward. Fighting with determination the Shepherds started to make the necessary steps to win the battle.
In the meanwhile, in the air Gerome and Laurent's duo proved enough to bring another rider down, leaving Morgan with only one more unit.

Robin then observed his movement from the ground. He spotted the man being clocked by a dark aura. That aura viciously expanded and embraced his animal, as well. The tactician felt the earth beneath him shaking, and immediately tried to balance himself, while being there for Nah, in case she needed his help. He took a look at her and saw her pink eyes staring behind him. Robin turned back and witnessed the dust from the dragons' corpses beginning to move and taking a new form. Robin saw the dragon's last from, held his sword tighter.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! Phew... I thought I wouldn't make it... And actually I didn't... This chapter is 80% finished. I felt like it was better than making you wait another day. So, what happens now... I will try to edit it again tomorrow, as soon as I humanly can and "add" that 20%.

Note: The beginning was what I was experimenting with. It's pretty much the end of the Valley chapter. I hoped to include the "explanation/how we got there" in this particular chapter as a flashback, but my time was up and I had to chose between NO chapter and 80% chapter.

[edit]: I've finally found time to write it and upload it. Phew... it ended up close to 1.000 words. I hope you like it. And I apologise for informing you that way. I'll try to work harder to write more better and please everyone :)

Please keep in mind that I've opened a poll. I'm testing it out and if things go well, I'll include questions based on this story.

-Replies to recent reviews:

-ShadowFenix98: Thank you very much for taking the time to review! I'm glad you liked it :) I can only promise for more and better chapters.

-New Replies to most recent reviews:

-ShadowFenix98: Thanks for reviewing, again, and for your kind words! I hope this battle and the "rest" of the chapter was satisfying enough :)

-Axel Rider: Heh, never apologise again for not reviewing. You're not obliged to :) And, thank you once again for your comments. They literally act as a small boost and help me work harder and more determined. Nah...You don't need to thank me for anything. I haven't done anything special :)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 26: Chapter 8: The Valley (VII)

The Valley (VII)

Robin gulped, afraid of what the future had in store for them. The remains of the fallen Risen dragon began to change their shape, into something more anthropomorphic. The tactician understood what was going on. This was also the reason that Morgan didn't bring many units alongside him. The valley *was* his units. Due to the dragons' substance, they could be used to create any shape and take any form.

Morgan was still being surrounded by the dark aura, making Robin a bit more worried. He was unsure if there was more to it, or only gave him complete control over Risen. At that time, Morgan's immortal army was formed. It was an army consisted of true Risen soldiers. They were fearsome warriors, riders, knights, myrmidons and more, dividing themselves much like how a cell does. Their final number was more than hundred. Nah witnessed their birth and urged to run to meet her friends and fight alongside them. As she was ready to do so, Robin caught her by her hand and told her not to.

"It's a suicide Nah. We must find another way, before the Risen obliterate us for good," Robin said in a dead serious tone. His face was emotionless. He only held his sword tight, before finally sheathing it. The tactician, without wasting time, pointed at the place where their comrades battled. He explained that Morgan wanted to have control where the battle was heading. It was the bridge. This structure was his checkmate move. If he pushed the Shepherds to fight there, then he would force them to step on it and he would then destroy it. Or he would immobilize the Shepherds, because the bridge connected the two ends of a cliff, one that seemed bottomless. White mist prevented from seeing its end. Nah acknowledged the situation and judging from their moves the Shepherds had also.

Robin was left with a huge dilemma. Inside him he knew that he should fight next to his friends, until the end, much like Nah tried to do. On the other, he was sure this wouldn't win their fight. The Risen were ten times more than his team and had a master tactician watching over them and planning their moves carefully, moving them like pawns at a chessboard, without caring about casualties. That being said, he took another close look at the battlefield. One good look.

He saw the Shepherds being backed in a corner, who helplessly tried to match the Risens' force using their strategy and power. Gerome had returned, with Laurent and the mage used his tactics to place them correctly in the battlefield. Gerome and Cynthia, as the only flying units tried to be at a close distance with their comrades and not only fight, but provide them with the enemy's positioning. The Shepherds had formed a circle and to combat the threat of the Risen, which attacked from everywhere. At the circle's center Brady used his magic staff to heal his injured and tired comrades. At the same time, he noticed that although the road to his friends was clear, the Shepherds were being surrounded, which made things a lot more difficult for the tactician and the manakete. Though, he didn't give up. Instead, Robin took another deep breath and told Nah to use her dragonstone. Nah saw that inside Robin's eyes there was a sparkle.

"You've come up with a plan right?" She asked curious.

"Maybe…" Robin replied coldly, a way he never used to talk around her. Nah felt a bit saddened, but remembered that they're in the middle of a fight. Robin would be serious and cold, when the lives of his friends are at stake. Having understood this, the manakete brought her precious stone out. It was bright enough to make Robin close his eyes. It was because the stone resonated with Nah's soul. The manakete was cloaked in a bright light and soon her transformation took place. Nah turned from a young girl into the fearsome dragon she kept inside her. The tactician hopped on top of her back and pointed at Morgan. He had taken his choice. He wanted determined their win was all about defeating him. And that was his goal.

The dragon flapped her wings and flew high to pursue the dark sorcerer. Once, she had reached a close distance Robin ordered her to attack him with her fiery breath. Nah's belly lit and immediately fired at him. Her attack was enough to tear him down, but Morgan saw her attack coming from miles away. By just looking at the fireball coming at him, he spread his arm and while having his palm open, he murmured something. It was enough to make a strange circle of light appear in front of his hand and soon dark streams of clouds appeared. They were trying to surround the dragon and possibly hurt it. At once, Robin shouted her to fly away and dodge them, with Nah doing as he said. The dragon began to maneuver in the air, evading the darkness. Robin grasped Nah's neck and his heart was pumping like crazy. He felt his blood circulating fast, with his head getting redder than Severa's hair. He had chosen to try and defeat Morgan, but he knew Nah's life was being risked. The tactician tried to keep his eyes open slightly, though the air made it difficult. Eventually, once Nah slowed down he quickly opened them and tried to get a look at his surroundings. They hadn't escaped the clouds, but they were left open to attack.

"Great job Nah! We can do i-" Before he could finish his words, a purple light illuminated them.

The attack was so fast, like a thunder on a heavy storm. The tactician couldn't even get a glimpse of it. Everything happened instantly. The darkness had surrounded them and stroke them with a lighting. Robin felt Nah getting weaker and weaker second by second. They had started to lose height. He couldn't believe his eyes. For the first time in his life, he was seeing dragon blood. It was different than of the human. Instead of being dark red, it had an electric light transparent blue color. And the wound on Nah's chest looked serious. Robin breathed heavily without being able to get a grip of himself. He turned at Morgan and saw observed how he was staring back at him. With his vicious look, the sorcerer put a smirk on his face and ordered his griffin to fly with might. He left Robin and aimed at his comrades. Robin knew his next target.

The tactician felt his head ache and immediately tried to talk to Nah. The dragon started being unable to even fly. She told Robin she hadn't being hit by such a powerful dark magic before and wasn't prepared to leave the world. Robin tried to calm her down and urged to point her their safe spot; inside the Shepherds' circle. It was a small opening, but the Risen had no flying units. If Nah managed to get close to them, Gerome or Cynthia could provide them with either concoction, or elixir. But above all they had to get close to them.

Nah used her remaining power, while in dragon form to fly close to her friends. Robin used the spell fire on the air as a signal for help. Having understood the situation Cynthia, once she finished stabbing a Risen to death, rushed for help. The rest of the Shepherds acknowledged something bad happened to Robin and Nah. However, they were on the verge of the same fate. Morgan's plan had worked. His forces had pressed them enough to bring them in a place were there was only one way out; the bridge. If they continued to recklessly fight them they could end up falling on the cliff and learn if it was indeed endless. On the other, they could pass the bridge, once again, and leave the valley. Laurent informed Lucina of their situation with the lord cursing the sorcerer. They had succeeded in dealing with a lot of Risen, but when one turned to ashes, another one was ready to take its place. With this way, the Risen army seemed like it was consisted of infinite units, although it was close to a hundred, but their number had fell short due to the amazing combat skills of the Shepherd army.

Owain's sweat started to enter his eyes and make them burn. He blocked a hit from a Risen warrior and responded with a quick slice on it's neck. On his right shoulder Kjelle pushed a Risen swordsman with her armor and stabbed it with her lance. Next to her, her friends fought hard with Brady always using his staff and taking notice of their surroundings. They were really close to the bridge and had to come closer to get past it. However, they couldn't do this all together. Somebody had to keep the Risen busy to save time for his friends.

Cynthia ordered Sumia to land close to Robin and Nah. She found the two lying on the sturdy ground alone and open for attacks. Though, the Risen forces were all facing the Shepherds. This, meant that Nah could be provided with the help she needed to survive. She had leaned her head on Robin's chest and had closed her eyes. Robin tried to remain as cool as a cucumber. Nonetheless, it was nothing other than Robin's façade. Inside him, he desperately tried not to blame himself for what happened to her. He wanted to stop Morgan forever. He wanted to save his friends, but couldn't. He stroke Nah's green hair, while pressing on her wound and shouted at Cynthia to come close.

"She came. Everything's all right now," Robin said assertively.

The rider opened a small bag from her mount's side and ran to give Robin the elixir. Robin told her not to and said to her it was best if she treated her wounds. It would be better for him, if he fought the Risen. Nah weakly opened her eyes and pleaded Robin to stay at her side. The tactician took a deep breath and said: "I-I can't they need me as much as you do. Plus, Cynthia can take care of you. I'm sorry Nah. This… It's all my fault. But I will make up for it. I can help, before everything is too late." A tear streamed down her cheek. She nodded. Cynthia opened the blue bottle knelt and poured it on her wound. Robin putting a brave look on his face opened his red tome and shot another fireball on the sky. This time Gerome observed it and understood it was his signal of pairing up with him for the battle. The masked man informed his friends of Robin's arrival. They were undoubtedly pleased to hear that he would finally offer his assistance, but responded to bring him here quickly. The Shepherds were really close of reaching the cliffs end. Lucina shouted at them to press forward.

Although, the number of Risen was decreasing, Robin's friends were close on being trapped and not having anywhere to go. The masked man gently touched Minerva's back with his hand. His black glove made it difficult for him to feel her rough skin, as she flew with speed. His bright red hair strongly waved as he soared the sky with his mount. The wyvern roared in her path, while she flew above the Risen soldiers to meet with her old friend.

Robin saw the beast flapping its wings with determination and got closer to him. The tactician quickly turned his head back. Nah was still being taken care of Cynthia. He sighed and waited for Gerome. The rider soon came and helped Robin to get on Minerva's back.

"What's your plan, tactician?"

Robin was vacillating whether he should attack Morgan again. The sorcerer proved too much for even Nah to handle and she ended up severely wounded after Morgan used a powerful dark magic spell. He shook his head in discomfort.

"It's better for us to go back to them. He's also after them," Robin responded with his eyes sparkling. Gerome nodded and slightly touched Minerva with his boot as a signal for her to take off. The dragon obeyed its master's order and began running before powerfully flapping her wings and fly. The tactician took a hold from Gerome and observed the battlefield once again. The Shepherds were only a matter of feet away from the cliff. The Risen had served their roles. The stage was set for Morgan to make his final move. Robin and Gerome were flying at a high speed to catch up with their comrades.

Brady saw the two coming and immediately urged to inform his friends. Lucina for a second looked behind her and acknowledged the fact that their defeat was close. Feeling her heart beat rate increasing and the sweat in her fore head and body she raised her Falchion and rushed to attack once more. She slashed her blade with might, while she blocked the next hit.

"We must move forward! We're close on the cliffs end!" She screamed to her comrades.

"That's ma' concern!" Brady shouted. "We should give all we have to this fight! Let's go everyone!"

Feeling motivated the Shepherds fought harder than ever. Their array took a semi-circular form with the members fighting side by side. In front of them there was their enemy, the heartless, cruel warriors of the darkness. However this time it was different. Morgan aiming to break their formation flew with his griffon above them. He closed his eyes and let his black aura intensifying.

"Laurent!" Brady yelled in fear. The sorcerer stretched his hands and whispered the Shepherds' words of doom. Instantly, a wave of a thunder, shining with purple light targeted Brady. The lighting exploded near him, as he barely avoided being hit dead on. The explosion was strong enough to leave him unconscious and away from his comrades. He fell on the ground with force and his black rope was filled with blood strains.

As a result from the attack, many of the Shepherds lost track of their enemy and found themselves blocking their enemies attacks rather than going all out against them. On the other it was a shock for everyone. Without the priest to heal them, they knew the fight would end soon.

Morgan found himself dodging a stream of fire which aimed at him. He looked down at the person who dared to attack him. It was Laurent with his eyes full of rage. He broke his formation and focused on attacking Morgan. His attacks looked like a rain of fire, which was about to strike only one person. Letting his rage take control, he screamed the words needed to cast his spell over and over again.

The sorcerer laughed at his attempt. The griffin maneuvered in the air and either evaded the hit or Morgan blocked it with magic. Although, Laurent intended to finish Morgan once and for all, Shepherd's line had an opening and this fact created a source of troubles. Having to fight multiple enemies Owain shouted at his attempt, only to fail.

Realizing that the fight was on the verge of being lost, Lucina knew that she had to risk everything on her next move. She immediately shouted everyone to cautiously retreat from the bridge, as they were close in hitting a dead end. The bridge was the narrow path for them, which could lead in their escape. If they managed to pass and then destroy it the Risen wouldn't be able to reach them. In addition their goal was to survive, as the gemstone was impossible to be found.

Robin and Gerome had finally arrived at the battle scene. Minerva came close to the Risen and gave Gerome the chance to decapitate his foes, while Robin contributed in creating chaos of fire along with Laurent, slowing Morgan down.

In the meanwhile, Cynthia was able to catch up with her friends. The Pegasus knight urged to help her friends, while also taking care of Nah, who seemed to have recovered, but without the ability of being able to fight. Lucina saw her sister flying from above and immediately ordered her to retreat to their safe zone, at the bridge's other side. Cynthia told Nah to hold tight once more and proceeded to cautiously get past the Risen and take shelter away from the valley. Sumia was hardly flying and the cover of the distance from the one side of the cliff to the other seemed like an impossible feat.

However, as Morgan was able to deflect the incoming attacks from his foes he ordered his griffon to chase after Cynthia. The rider unaware of being followed was nearly flying above the bridge. As Sumia soared the sky to escape, she became an easy target for a master tactician. Without hesitating Morgan attacked her from behind. Sumia was unable to avoid being hit. Cynthia, along with Nah, nearly fell from the Pegasus' back. Sumia withstood the hit, but could fly with difficulty. Before Morgan could deliver his final blow, Robin attacked him. The tactician took advantage of the fact that Cynthia acted as a decoy and along with Laurent began their attack. Morgan's griffon was close of being immolated by the fire.

With his legendary creature deadly damaged from the fire and him being weakened he decided to fight from the land. Robin knew that it was time to finish him. Suddenly, the sorcerer jumped in the air and landed on the solid ground. Filled by hatred his aura his emotions entered a fever pitch. Out of nowhere surrounded by his army, Morgan began shooting lighting bolts everywhere in the air in an attempt to find target, before falling on the ground exhausted.

"They're everywhere!" Gerome said frightened. Minerva unable to dodge the strikes got hit. Both riders felt their bodies burn from the hit and Robin noted that the lighting left deep scars on Minerva's skin. Following the same fate as Sumia before her, Minerva was left with no other choice than of trying to pass on the other side of the cliff.

As both mounts were desperately trying to achieve the same goal, Sumia got closer on the end. At that moment, the Pegasus couldn't continue. Being above from what seemed a bottomless canyon, she stopped moving and slowly began to lose height. Having understood this Cynthia pleaded her to continue. Nah held Cynthia tighter than ever, begging Sumia to recover. The Pegasus did. An act that seemed a miracle, Sumia overcame her body's weakness and exhaustion and kicked the air with determination to move forward. Nah, feeling her heart ready to explore from the stress, witnessed the power of Cynthia's partner. With anything that was left for the animal, immediately after stepping on the solid ground the Pegasus knelt and fell.

Next to them, they found the other two riders having overcome the same problem. Robin gasping, got down from Minerva, thanked her and rushed at the bridge. Before leaving he ordered his comrades to stay there.

Robin felt weak enough to collapse. Every step he made was a difficult one, but his friend's safety pushed him forward. He arrived at the bridge. In front of him, he saw the narrow wooden path and what expanded beneath it. His body shivered at the sight and by the fact that there was no end to it, as clouds covered the bottom. Suddenly, he heard a man's voice telling him to step away. It was Yarne, who had taken the role of carrying the unconscious priest. Moving cautiously and slowly, with the fear of falling, Robin switched places with Yarne and both of them were able to safely continue walking. Feeling his heart pumping like crazy again, Robin knew he ought to go on and make sure all of his friends crossed the bridge for one last time.

Fortunately enough, Robin found no other member of the Shepherds' until the bridge's end. This time it was Inigo. The mercenary had escaped from the battle scene and safely retreated. Robin nodded at him and continued to catch up with the others.

Ahead of the tactician, Lucina after slaughtering another Risen ordered Kjelle and Owain to retreat. Robin stepped forward.

"You have to leave now!" Robin yelled at them. "I can keep them busy!" He said determined and unleashed another stream of fire towards the Risen.

"You're not going anywhere, you idiot!" Severa responded as she prepared to combat her enemy.

"We're all here for you Robin! If we're to fall, we'll fall together!" Laurent replied as well.

"We have to retreat! They're way we can handle as many of them. Please! Retreat and I'll keep them busy," Robin said unsure of how to handle the situation.

"That's what we're trying to do Robin!" Lucina told him and pierced the zombie fighter.

Robin was about to prepare for his next attack when the Risen began to move backwards, much to his surprise. The lord told them that this was their opening. She immediately ordered Severa and Laurent to follow the steps of Inigo and Yarne, and soon both her and Robin stepped on the bridge. However, the Risen hadn't stopped fighting for no purpose. None other than Morgan himself appeared in front of the lord and tactician.

Robin judging from his rival's appearance he could make out that his dark aura had begun fading. The sorcerer approached them. Robin stopped moving and decided to head for the bridge's front.

Morgan giggled evilly. "You're exactly where I want you to be Robin. You see I'm always one step ahead of you."

"This fight is pointless Morgan. You're after me! So, let's end this once… and for all," he said with fire in his eyes. At that time he felt someone touching him at his back. He turned and saw Lucina at his side.

"Everyone has crossed the bridge safely," she told him calmly. "Now the only one that's left is us."

"Farewell, Robin!" Morgan said and used his purple tome aiming at the bridge. The tactician grabbed Lucina from her hand and began running to reach its end. He heard his friends' voices and tried to move forward. However, at one moment he felt he wasn't stepping on a solid surface. Robin then took a hold of one of the bridge's side ropes.

The tactician found himself in the worst nightmare imaginable. Robin freaked out, as he couldn't find of any scenario to escape from their situation.

"Robin! Let me go! Save yourself!" Lucina desperately yelled, as cold tears ran through her white cheeks. Her heart beat fast, because she couldn't remember herself being closer to death. Robin, though, could.

"N-Never…" Robin tried to say in order to calm her down, with his teeth gritted. In the meanwhile his right hand was aching so much that he couldn't even feel it and he started losing hope as well.

"Robin! Let me go! You need both arms to climb! Please…" She cried with droplets falling down to the unknown. Robin knew she was right. And as he was looking upwards he saw the rope stretching more and more, telling him that time was not on his side. Without realising it the rope broke.

Fire Emblem: The Man That Never Was

Chapter 8: The Valley

A/N (Author's Note): Hello again everybody! Before you say anything let me just start by saying that NO this isn't the whole chapter VII. I will update again with the rest of it (plus, I'm positive it will be as long as the first half). The reasoning behind this is simple. I'm not done with writing it and between 0 chapters and half chapter I will always choose the later.

Secondly, I honestly feel the need to apologise for the half-month delay. The last thing I want is to let all of the readers and 82 followers down, by uploading again late. But I won't lie. I reached bottom. Life's really pressuring me and reaching me to my limits. It's so hard and I've yet to stabilise my schedule in a way to know when I'm free to write. And I'm not the person I was when I began. I mean that I don't have the strength to stay awake until late at night and finish writing. I get so drained from my work that pretty early at night I just feel the need to lay on my bed and sleep. Moreover, there was even times that I was considering taking a hiatus from writing. But after rereading your amazingly warm comments, I remembered why I write. I want to thank you for your amazing support. So, I won't give in to my problems. I will continue to fight back as hard as I can and in the meantime I want to repay you for all the great comments and support you've given me. I continue trying to achieve my dream, to have 100 friends following my story. I will!

-Replies to recent reviews:

-Guest: Haha, there are indeed a lot of Robin!Lucina ones. Personally, I don't like my readers to already know who Robin's pair will be. I feel that in a story what matters in the protagonists relationship with his partner is the "journey." How they met, how they fell in love, how he confessed his love to her. If someone already knows the outcome, this short of magic vanishes, because the reader is sure that the pairing will become cannon at one point. But when he doesn't he speculates and experiences the "journey." Keep in mind that's my personal view. Anyway, thanks for reviewing and I hope you stay along the ride until you find about Robin's true pair.

-Iron Mario: Thank you so much for your amazing review. I'm really glad you liked the story. Also, I can't but get excited when I hear that my readers speculate about the story and it's small mysteries. Don't worry everything will become clearer in the newest instalments, plus trust me, I have some great ideas about the next gemstones. ;)

Please don't mind any grammatical errors. No copyright intended. Also please keep in mind that there is a problem with the site (at least for me) and bold text isn't showing up with the default font. Change the font for bold text to appear. :)

As always, until next time, please have yourselves a darn good one ;D

J.D. King

Dedicated to some friends, who without them I wouldn't be the person and writer I am today.

Chapter 27: Update

And finally I uploaded the rest of the Chapter 8 (VII). Keep in mind this is the end of the Valley Chapter, as well as that I will respond to the recent reviews as soon as possible!

I hope you enjoy it. :) I'm pretty sure I'll need work on this chapter more to edit some details.

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